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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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PSEG EARLY SITE PERMIT APPLICATION
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING

PUBLIC MEETING

+ + + + +

Thursday,

November 4th, 2010

+ + + + +

Carneys Point, New Jersey

The Public Meeting was held at 1:00 p.m., at the
Performing Arts Theater (Davidow Hall), Campus of
Salem Community College, 460 Hollywood Avenue, Carneys
Point, New Jersey, Chip Cameron, Facilitator,
presiding.

PRESENT:

CHIP CAMERON, Facilitator

GREG HATCHETT, Chief, NRC Environmental Review Branch

ALLEN FETTER, NRC Project Manager, Early Site Permit

Application

ALICIA WILLIAMSON, NRC Project Manager, Environmental

Review

PROSANTA CHOWDHURY, NRC Safety Project Manager

JOSEPH COLACCINO, NRC Branch Chief

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2 PRESENT: (CONT.)

3 DAN SCHROEDER, NRC Senior Resident

4 BECKEY KARAS, NRC Senior Agency Official

5 LESLIE PERKINS, NRC License Renewal

6 BRIAN BELLACIMA, Army Corps of Engineers

7 ED BONNER, Army Corps of Engineers
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A-G-E-N-D-A

WELCOME AND PURPOSE OF MEETING

Facilitator Chip Cameron 4

Greg Hatchett..... 12

OVERVIEW OF EARLY SITE PERMIT AND ENVIRONMENTAL

REVIEW PROCESS

Allen Fetter..... 15

PUBLIC COMMENTS 22

CLOSING REMARKS

Becky Karas 109

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P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

1:00 p.m.

FACILITATOR CAMERON: Good afternoon, everyone, and welcome to today's public meeting. My name is Chip Cameron, and it is going to be my pleasure to serve as your facilitator for this afternoon's meeting.

And in that role I will try to help all of you to have a productive meeting today. The topic of today's meeting is the Environmental Review that the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, or the NRC, and the Army, the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the Environmental Review that these two agencies are going to conduct on an application that we received from Public Service Enterprise Group, PSEG, PSEG Nuclear and Power, and PSEG Power.

These two entities, have submitted an application, to the NRC for what is called an Early Site Permit might be a prelude to potential new reactors in Salem, New Jersey.

And the NRC staff will explain, in more detail, what an Early Site Permit is. The NRC is also going to hold two public meetings on November 17th, in this area, on the application for renewal of the existing licenses at Hope Creek and Salem.

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1 And just like they say on the airliner,
2 make sure you are on the right airplane, this is the
3 Early Site Permit meeting today.

4 And I just want to go over a couple of
5 points on meeting process, with you, so that you know
6 what to expect today. I'd like to tell you about the
7 format for the meeting, then talk a little bit about
8 some simple ground rules that will help us to have a
9 productive meeting.

10 And then I'm going to introduce the NRC
11 staff, who will be speaking to you today. In terms of
12 the format for the meeting, it is basically a two part
13 format.

14 And the first part is to give you some
15 background on the NRC review process for one of these
16 Early Site Permit applications. And we will have two
17 brief presentations by the NRC staff.

18 And then we will have some time for
19 questions to clarify anything that was unclear about
20 the NRC process, and if we don't have time to get to
21 all of your questions, during the meeting, the NRC
22 staff, the Corps of Engineers staff will be here,
23 after the meeting, and will be glad to talk to you in
24 more detail about your questions.

25 The second part of the meeting is an

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1 opportunity, for the NRC and the Corps of Engineers
2 staff to listen to your comments, your
3 recommendations, your advise on these Environmental
4 Review issues that are related to the Early Site
5 Permit.

6 And we asked you to fill out a yellow card
7 if you wanted to speak today. And we have a good list
8 of speakers.

9 And when we do the questions, if there are
10 questions, I will bring this cordless microphone to
11 you. But when we have the comment part of the meeting
12 I'm going to ask you to come down here, if you don't
13 mind, and speak to everybody from the podium.

14 The NRC is also asking for written
15 comments on these issues, and the staff will explain
16 how you can submit those written comments. But I just
17 want to emphasize, to all of you, that anything that
18 you say today will carry the same weight as something
19 that is submitted in writing.

20 In terms of ground rules, our first one,
21 please wait until both of the NRC presentations are
22 over before asking questions. And, as I mentioned, I
23 will bring this cordless microphone to you.

24 And if you could just please introduce
25 yourself to us, and then we will go through some

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1 questions. The second ground rule I would ask that
2 only person speak at a time, most importantly so that
3 we can give our full attention to whomever has the
4 floor at the moment.

5 But also so that we can get what I call a
6 clean transcript. We are taking a transcript, and Ed
7 Johns is here, with us, as our stenographer this
8 afternoon.

9 And one person at a time, Ed will know who
10 is speaking, and there won't be any confusion about
11 that. The transcript is going to be your record of
12 this meeting.

13 It is also going to be the NRC's record of
14 this meeting. And third ground rule, I would just ask
15 you to be brief in your comments when you come up, so
16 that we can make sure that we hear from everybody who
17 wants to talk today.

18 I usually ask people to follow a three to
19 five minute guideline. We have several speakers, it
20 is not going to max out our time, so though there is a
21 three to five minute guideline, if you go over, fine.

22 There is not going to be any abrupt stop
23 to your comments. But if I do have to ask you to sum
24 up, I apologize in advance for that. And if you want
25 to amplify on the comments you make today, you can do

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1 that in a written comment.

2 I know that you spent a lot of time and
3 effort preparing comments, so apologies if I have to
4 ask you to sum up. But I don't think we are going to
5 have any problem with that.

6 One note about the commenting today, is
7 that the NRC and the Corps of Engineers staff are
8 going to be listening, carefully, to what you are
9 saying.

10 They may, indeed, talk to you, after the
11 meeting, about your comments, to get some further
12 information on it. But they are not going to be
13 commenting on anything that you say, they are not
14 going to be answering any questions that might be
15 asked from the podium during that comment period.

16 But they will carefully address your
17 comments and questions when they prepare the scoping
18 report on this particular meeting, as well as the
19 meeting tonight.

20 And that will be a publicly available
21 document. Final ground rule, and not really
22 necessary, but I just always ask all of you, all of
23 us, to extend courtesy to everybody in the audience.

24 You may hear opinions that are different
25 from your own this afternoon, but just please respect

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1 the person who is giving that opinion.

2 Let me introduce our speakers, and then
3 bring them on. First of all we have Greg Hatchett,
4 right here. And Greg is the chief of the
5 Environmental Review branch, who is handling this
6 particular Early Site Permit application.

7 Greg's branch is within the division of
8 site and Environmental Review, and that is in the
9 NRC's Office of New Reactors. And Greg is going to
10 give us an overview of what the NRC responsibilities
11 are, generally, and to provide a welcome, to all of
12 you, to the meeting.

13 Greg has been with the NRC for about 12
14 years. Before he assumed his branch chief position he
15 was a senior reactor operating engineer, operating
16 reactor engineer.

17 He has also been a project manager in the
18 NRC's high level waste licensing program. And he was
19 the policy advisor to one of the NRC Commissioners,
20 Commissioner Greg Jaczko, who is now the Chairman of
21 the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

22 And before Greg joined the NRC he was a
23 project manager for the Corps of Engineers, the Army
24 Corps of Engineers on hazardous waste program. He has
25 a bachelors in civil engineering from the Virginia

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1 Military Institute, VMI.

2 After we hear from Greg, we are going to
3 go to Allen Fetter, who is right here. And Allen is a
4 project manager on this particular Early Site Permit
5 application. One of the environmental project
6 managers on this, and Allen is going to tell you about
7 the NRC's review process.

8 And he has been with the Agency about six
9 years, doing Environmental Reviews, not only in the
10 reactor area, but also in the NRC's materials
11 licensing area.

12 And before joining the NRC he was in the
13 private sector, and also academia, on scientific and
14 environmental issues. He has a masters of science in
15 geology from the University of North Carolina, and he
16 also has a PhD in Geology from Kansas State
17 University.

18 MR. FETTER: The University of Kansas.

19 FACILITATOR CAMERON: If we were in Kansas
20 I would be in big trouble. Luckily we are in New
21 Jersey.

22 Let me just, briefly, introduce some other
23 NRC staff that are here. Alicia Williamson is also a
24 project manager on this Environmental Review.

25 We have our safety project manager, as I

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1 think the staff will tell you, there are two parts to
2 the NRC review of this application, the environmental
3 portion, which we are focusing on today.

4 But there is also a review of safety
5 issues. And the project manager on the safety side is
6 right here. This is Prosanta Chowdhury, and I should
7 also introduce Prosanta's branch chief, Joe Colaccino,
8 of safety side review.

9 And we do have one of our residents here
10 from the operating reactors. And this is the senior
11 resident, Dan Schroeder. If you have questions on the
12 operating reactors, I would just ask you to talk to
13 Dan after the meeting. He will be here.

14 We have Becky Karas, who is our senior
15 agency official from the NRC. She is the Deputy
16 Director of the Division of Site and Environmental
17 Review.

18 Because the license renewal meeting is
19 coming up in a couple of weeks, we have Leslie
20 Perkins, who is right over here. And Leslie will be
21 available to answer any questions that you have, after
22 the meeting, on the license renewal process.

23 And we do have two representatives from
24 the Corps of Engineers with us, today, who after the
25 meeting will be glad to answer any questions.

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1 And one is Brian Bellacima. Brian, where
2 are you? There is Brian. And we also have Ed Bonner
3 from the Corps of Engineers and Ed is right there.

4 We brought people from our office of
5 General Counsel, our office of public affairs, staff
6 experts on various components of the Environmental
7 Review, like socioeconomics, radiation safety.

8 They are here so that we can make sure
9 that we can give you as much information as possible.

10 And with all of that I'm going to ask Greg Hatchett
11 to start off.

12 MR. HATCHETT: Like Chip said, I'm Greg
13 Hatchett. I'm the chief of the environmental projects
14 branch in the division of sites and Environmental
15 Reviews.

16 And I want to extend a special thank you
17 for everyone, for coming out. I know it is not the
18 best of weather days, but it is always good to get
19 people to come out when the weather is not good.

20 So thanks for coming out and participating
21 in our meeting. What we hope to try to do today is to
22 give you sufficient enough information to understand
23 our Early Site Permit process, and in particular our
24 Environmental Review that we will be doing, to develop
25 an EIS, that accompanies the staff's package,

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1 respectfully, with the Early Site Permit.

2 And that also has a safety component to
3 it. And we have introduced the folks from our office,
4 the Division of New Reactor Licensing, where they will
5 be doing a final Safety Evaluation Report.

6 And then Allen will cover these things in
7 great detail, in terms of what we are doing, and he
8 will give an overview of the components of the Early
9 Site Permit process.

10 To talk a little bit about schedule. And
11 in particular we talk a little bit about scoping,
12 because the scoping of environmental document is the
13 very beginning of the process.

14 And, hopefully, this is how we try to
15 gather certain information to improve what we
16 understand that we need to look at, in terms of trying
17 to develop an EIS.

18 And in the end we hope to gather comments,
19 from interested stakeholders, and anybody who has a
20 concern about what is going on, to help inform what we
21 are doing.

22 And then what is significant about that,
23 and what is important to me, in that process, is that
24 the NRC's process, I believe, works better when a
25 broad group of interested stakeholders provides

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1 feedback to the Agency, in the hopes that we can make
2 a better decision.

3 So if you have comments, you have
4 concerns, please don't hesitate to provide them.
5 Because we believe that it makes our decisions
6 ultimately better, when we understand what your
7 concerns are, and when you provide information to us
8 that we may not, otherwise, have known.

9 I want to give just a brief overview of
10 what we do, in terms of the Agency and its mission. I
11 mean, just a three second historical note.

12 You know, it was once the Atomic Energy
13 Commission. It broke into the NRC, and that other
14 organization we might call the Department of Energy.
15 But I like the NRC better, so I think we are a better
16 organization. That was supposed to be funny.

17 But, at any rate, we are responsible for
18 the commercial side of things. The Department of
19 Energy primarily handles the military side of things,
20 if you will, the federal side of things.

21 And so if anyone who wishes to use nuclear
22 or radioactive materials, has to come to the NRC to
23 get a license. And that ranges from potentially
24 building and operating a nuclear power plant, to
25 diagnostic and therapeutic treatments, in a nuclear

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1 medicine department, in any number of hospitals across
2 the United States.

3 And so we have a unique mission in that,
4 you know, I think most people know us for nuclear
5 power plants, but when it comes to academic research,
6 and medical uses, and industrial uses of radioactive
7 materials, that is where we have the largest number of
8 licensees from the NRC.

9 And I don't think most people really know
10 that, and understand it. But we cover a wide range of
11 issues. And so with respect to that, we have been
12 doing it for, you know, over 35 years.

13 And, you know, it is a great way to serve
14 the country in terms of dealing with these issues. So
15 Allen is going to do all the heavy lifting, and
16 explaining the process.

17 So I'm going to sit down, and I'm going to
18 turn it over to Allen. Thank you.

19 MR. FETTER: Thank you, good afternoon.
20 Again, my name is Allen Fetter, I'm the Environmental
21 Project manager on this project. And I'm going to
22 take you through our Environmental Review process, or
23 application process.

24 As both Chip and Greg mentioned, we have
25 an Early Site Permit that we are reviewing, which is

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1 undergoing both the Safety Review and the Safety
2 Review will result in the production of a Safety
3 Evaluation Report.

4 Even though they discuss this, I want to
5 show a flow chart, to give a different way to look at
6 our process.

7 Also with the Safety Review we also have
8 the Environmental Review going on in parallel. The
9 green circle at the bottom shows the scoping part of
10 the Environmental Review, where we receive scoping
11 input for the process.

12 There is a Notice of Hearing that is going
13 to be coming out. The safety side is going to be
14 putting out a Notice of Hearing opportunity, Petition
15 to Intervene, in our regulatory process.

16 And that should be coming out in the next
17 week or two. And I will discuss that, a little bit
18 more, later.

19 Now, the product of the Environmental
20 Review, the document we produce is called the
21 Environmental Impact Statement. And this is a little
22 bit simplified. We didn't want to make it too busy.

23 There is going to be, also, a draft
24 version of the Environmental Impact Statement. And
25 that is another opportunity for stakeholders to

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1 provide comments on the document we produce there.

2 Following that we have a hearing on both
3 the safety and environmental reviews. Now, a little
4 bit about the Early Site Permit.

5 We had a government to government meeting
6 this morning. And one of the folks from one of the
7 agencies said, why would an applicant want an Early
8 Site Permit? It doesn't authorize the building and
9 operation of any new reactors.

10 Well, what it does is it allows our agency
11 to resolve any site and environmental, site
12 suitability issues, with respect to both safety and
13 environment. And it also allows an applicant to have
14 a little bit of flexibility in terms of the design
15 they choose.

16 They don't have to come in with a
17 particular design certification right away. And if
18 you look at our application that has come in, PSEG is
19 using what is called the plant parameter envelope.

20 And there is a surrogate of four different
21 reactor designs, and we are using the values, we call
22 the plant parameter envelope, in the process of our
23 Environmental Review.

24 Following the completion of the
25 Environmental Impact Statement, there will be a formal

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1 hearing on the staff review, and also on the safety
2 side.

3 And this is regarding the timing. The
4 PSEG submitted their application back in May 25th of
5 this year, and we accepted it for docketing in August.

6 And right now we are in scoping.

7 One of the underpinnings of how we do our
8 Environmental Review, is we use the National
9 Environmental Policy Act which requires federal
10 agencies to use a systematic approach to consider
11 environmental impacts.

12 And, as I mentioned before, we developed
13 an Environmental Impact Statement, and this is for
14 major federal actions that may, significantly, affect
15 the environment. And NRC considers issuing an Early
16 Site Permit a major federal action under NEPA.

17 So again, to reiterate, our Environmental
18 Review is under -- is a NEPA review. The NRC is the
19 lead federal agency. We are engaging with the Corps
20 of Engineers on the development of the EIS.

21 And we anticipate that the Philadelphia
22 District of the Army Corps of Engineers will become a
23 cooperating agency. Formally, that is.

24 The NRC will also address the requirements
25 of other statutes, as appropriate, such as the

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1 Endangered Species Act, and National Historic
2 Preservation Act.

3 Now, about scoping. Both Chip and Greg
4 touched on this, as well. But scoping is a process
5 that helps us determine significant issues to be
6 analyzed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

7 Now, one of the things why we do this, and
8 we go close to the plant, or where a proposed site is,
9 is that often we can get the insights of folks who are
10 in the area, local perspective on issues that they
11 think is important.

12 And that aids us in doing a better job in
13 our Environmental Review. And so, as we have the
14 scoping period that is open through December 14th, and
15 I encourage you to submit any comments that you have.

16 And, also, both Alicia and I are available
17 to contact directly by phone. And we are more than
18 happy to discuss any issues with you.

19 Now, after the scoping period closes, we
20 will issue a scoping summary report. The Scoping
21 Summary Report will document comments that are in and
22 out of scope of the Environmental Review.

23 And the comments that are in scope we will
24 address in the development of our Environmental Impact
25 Statement.

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1 Now, here is a graphical representation of
2 where we, and how we, gather information in the
3 preparation of the EIS. In the early spring we will
4 conduct site audits, visits to alternative sites, and
5 we are currently gathering information through
6 scoping.

7 We expect to request additional
8 information from the applicant, following the
9 completion of our site audits.

10 And so all of this information will be
11 used in the preparation of the Environmental Impact
12 Statement.

13 To prepare this EIS, in addition to NRC
14 staff, we have assembled a team with backgrounds in
15 the necessary scientific and technical disciplines.

16 The NRC has contracted with Oak Ridge
17 National Laboratory, and the NRC team, along with its
18 contractor, is comprised of experts on wide ranging
19 issues related to issues in the environment, related
20 to the siting of nuclear power plants.

21 As I mentioned before, the Corps of
22 Engineers is expected to provide technical expertise
23 in the preparation of the EIS.

24 And this slide shows most of the resource
25 areas that we look at. This is an overview of our

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1 anticipated review schedule. We haven't issued a
2 formal schedule yet.

3 But this goes through the Federal Register
4 Notice on Scoping, was published on October 15th.
5 Right now, where the yellow arrow is we are in
6 scoping, and that continues until October 14th.

7 We expect to publish the draft EIS in
8 March 2012, after which there will be a 75 day comment
9 period. And then we will work on incorporating any of
10 those comments in the development of the Final EIS,
11 which we anticipate publishing in March of 2013.

12 Now, as far as submitting your scoping
13 comments, you can do it via regular mail, and there is
14 the mailing address. We can also accept faxes and
15 emails.

16 And the email, most of you may have
17 grabbed the handout of the slide presentation. We
18 have lots of extras, go ahead and grab that. It is
19 also in the Federal Register. And if you have any,
20 you also can contact me directly as well.

21 And, once again, I'm emphasizing that
22 comments are due by December 14th. Now, getting
23 involved in the Hearing. The Petition to Intervene
24 comes following the publication of the Notice of
25 Opportunity for Hearing, and that is coming out in the

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1 next few weeks.

2 That will leave the opportunity to
3 Petition to Intervene, for about 60 days. If you, to
4 intervene you have to have a -- it is done
5 electronically now, and you need to get a digital
6 certificate, or waiver, for filing a petition.

7 Instructions on the e-filing are found at
8 the web address shown on the screen. And you need to
9 have at least five days to obtain the certificate. So
10 don't wait until the last minute if you are a
11 potential intervenor.

12 We have, at PSEG, Early Site Permit
13 application available on our website. We have also
14 made hard copies available at the public libraries
15 listed above, Salem Free Public Library, the Penn's
16 Grove Carneys Point, and the Penn's Grove Public
17 Library as well.

18 And, again, our NRC contacts are me,
19 Alicia Williamson, and Prosanta Chowdhury. And now we
20 will take some questions.

21 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay, thank you.
22 Thank you very much, Allen. And thank you, Greg, for
23 that overview. Are there some questions on the
24 process at this point?

25 And if you could just introduce yourself

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1 to us, Dr. Meadow.

2 DR. MEADOW: My name is Norm Meadow, I'm
3 here from the Maryland Conservation Group.

4 My question concerns intervening. Are
5 intervenors normally people who have some serious
6 objection to a project, or do people intervene in
7 support of it?

8 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Let me go to one of
9 our representatives from the Office of General
10 Counsel, on that. Kevin?

11 MR. ROACH: Hello. I'm Kevin Roach from
12 the Office of the General Counsel. As a general
13 matter, there are people, most people who intervene do
14 have an objection to the project.

15 There is one instance, I can think of, in
16 which Intervenors have been in support of a project.
17 And that was a high level waste proceeding. So does
18 that answer your question? Okay.

19 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay, thank you very
20 much, Kevin. And thank you for that question.

21 Anybody else have a question at this
22 point?

23 (No response.)

24 FACILITATOR CAMERON: We will move on to
25 comments, and as I said, the NRC staff will be here,

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1 after the meeting, if something does come up that you
2 have a question on.

3 And in terms of our first speakers, today,
4 we are going to go to two officials from local
5 government. First of all Mayor Robert Davis from
6 Salem City.

7 And then we are going to ask Mayor Ellen
8 Pompper, from Lower Alloways Creek to come up. And,
9 Mayor Davis?

10 MAYOR DAVIS: Good afternoon. Throughout
11 the operation of Salem Hope Creek, and PSEG Nuclear,
12 it has been a true partner with Salem City and its
13 residents.

14 For more than PSEG houses training
15 programs on Chestnut Street, then they moved their
16 facility out to the plant, almost four years ago.
17 They recognized the role the facility played in the
18 community.

19 They have given back to Salem City, and
20 surrounding Community, by locating their new Energy
21 Environmental Resource Center, at this facility.

22 Salem is a proud -- is proud of this new
23 program, and it helps signal the rebirth of the
24 importance of Salem City, not only as a county seat,
25 but a place rich in history and small town charm.

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1 For the past ten years Salem City has been
2 recognized for its Main Street Program. The success
3 would not be possible without the support of PSEG,
4 which has provided close to 100,000 dollars in
5 funding.

6 This funding has helped with the annual
7 community day, each year. Promoted the annual
8 Yuletide Festival, revitalized Peterson Park, the Bar-
9 B-Que cook off, our annual Block Party, our Gospel
10 Festival, and is an exciting time for Salem and PSEG.

11 Building a new plant means local jobs, and
12 it would drive business to our little town. We have
13 seen only progress and good things from PSEG, whom we
14 consider a good neighbor.

15 We support PSEG's application for an Early
16 Site Permit, and possible plans to build a new power
17 plant. Thank you.

18 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you very much,
19 Mayor. And now we are going to hear from Mayor
20 Pompper, from Lower Alloways Creek.

21 MAYOR POMPPER: I'm sorry, I'm the short
22 mayor.

23 Good afternoon. I'm Ellen Pompper, I'm
24 the Mayor of Lower Alloways Creek Township. The
25 reason I came today is because I think that it is

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1 important for everybody to know that Public Service is
2 a very good neighbor to us.

3 We meet monthly, and we are kept fully
4 informed, at all times, of what is going on, as far as
5 operations, or projects that are being planned, or
6 anything that affects our township residents.

7 As the host town of three nuclear power
8 reactors, we are very supportive of new nuclear. We
9 have not had any objections by any residents that have
10 come to any meetings, nor have I received any phone
11 calls, from anyone else that would not like new
12 nuclear.

13 I just wanted to say that the township
14 committee is happy with the transparency shown to us
15 by PSEG, and we are supportive of their exploration
16 into the new nuclear. Thank you.

17 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you very much,
18 Mayor. Usually with these types of projects people
19 want to know what the vision is, so to speak, of the
20 company who is applying for one of these permits, in
21 this case an Early Site Permit.

22 And we have Tom Joyce with us as a
23 speaker, today. And Tom is the President of PSEG
24 Nuclear.

25 MR. JOYCE: Good afternoon. As they

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1 introduced me, I am Tom Joyce. And I am part of the
2 leadership team at PSEG that operates the Salem and
3 Hope Creek generating stations.

4 On behalf of PSEG we look forward to
5 today's public meetings and the opportunity to
6 continue working with the Nuclear Regulatory
7 Commission, and the public on our application for an
8 Early Site Permit, as we explore the possibility of
9 building a new nuclear power plant here in Salem
10 County.

11 At PSEG we understand our obligation to
12 the local community, the environment, and our friends,
13 family and coworkers, to provide safe, reliable,
14 economic, and green energy.

15 We operate our plants, as Ellen said, with
16 a culture of safety and transparency. We encourage
17 our employees to raise issues, and to be open on how
18 we can do things better.

19 And there are always ways that we can do
20 things better. And our success that we have had, is
21 really based on our employees, and their commitment.

22 There are no surprises, not in our
23 operation, and certainly not with our stakeholders.
24 As I often say there would be no new nuclear without
25 good old nuclear.

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1 So we must pay attention, day in and day
2 out, on how we operate the current power plants. We
3 recognize the impact of the current operations that we
4 have on the community.

5 We have 1,500 local employees, forty
6 percent of them from Salem County. We purchase goods
7 and services totaling more than 81 million dollars in
8 southern New Jersey. And we pay more than two million
9 dollars in property taxes a year.

10 We take great pride in being a good
11 neighbor. We are proactive and engage the community
12 when a challenge arises, so they can understand the
13 challenge, and have their questions answered.

14 Again, there are no surprises, including
15 our plans to explore building a new power plant. A
16 potential new power plant would have many impacts.

17 Some of them are 4,100 construction jobs,
18 during the peak construction, including 1,500
19 electricians, iron workers, and pipe fitters. It would
20 create an additional 4,000 jobs in New Jersey,
21 Delaware and Pennsylvania, as a result of the purchase
22 of goods and services during construction.

23 And, finally, 600 permanent jobs that
24 would be at the plant when it becomes operational.
25 These impacts, as well as many others, will affect our

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1 community.

2 We have met with the County Freeholder
3 Board, and local municipalities next door to us. We
4 will continue to work with the community throughout
5 this process.

6 Because, to us, it is very clear, and we
7 recognize that this Early Site Permit, and possible
8 new plant, would not be possible without the community
9 support. Thank you.

10 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Tom. We
11 are going to go to David Velinsky next, and we do have
12 three members from the Maryland Conservation Council,
13 we will go to Norm Meadow, and Ken Lewis, and Ajax
14 Eastman, and then Bob Molzahn. David?

15 DR. VELINSKY: Thank you, Chip. Good
16 afternoon. I am Dr. David Velinsky, Vice President of
17 the Academy of Natural Sciences, in Philadelphia, and
18 Director of the Academy's Patrick Center for
19 Environmental Research.

20 The Academy is the oldest natural history
21 institution in America, and it has been engaged for
22 over six years in research of the ecological services,
23 particularly on the understanding interactions between
24 humans and the natural environment.

25 The Patrick Center is an inter-

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1 disciplinary team of researchers that specializes in
2 assessing human environmental impacts, especially
3 related to water sheds, wetlands, rivers, and
4 estuaries.

5 The Patrick Center performs both basic and
6 applied research on ecological processes, as well as
7 providing evaluation and monitoring of baseline
8 conditions, and subsequent impacts related to the
9 anthroprogenic alterations of eco systems.

10 In that role we have done extensive
11 research on the physical and biological
12 characteristics of the Delaware estuary, including
13 components of the PSEG estuary enhancement program.

14 For over 20 years the Academy has acted in
15 an advisory capacity to monitor and evaluate the
16 impact of various PSEG projects on the Delaware
17 estuary. In that time we have had the opportunity to
18 observe PSEG to make substantial steps to reduce their
19 environmental impact, and to operate within the
20 constraints of the local ecosystems.

21 They are a very responsible partner in the
22 study and use of the Delaware estuary. In looking at
23 the proposed new construction, on the PSEG site, I
24 will be speaking primarily to the specific projected
25 ecological impacts to the local aquatic system.

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1 The natural systems of the Delaware River
2 and estuary are critical environments, with major
3 significance for both regional and global
4 biodiversity, for regional water supply, and water
5 quality, and for supporting important environmental
6 activities.

7 Construction on the scale proposed by
8 PSEG, on the Delaware coast, requires careful
9 consideration of environmental factors. Before
10 addressing the new construction, I would like to point
11 out PSEG's past efforts to mitigate the effects of its
12 operations on the aquatic environment in the vicinity.

13 In particular, faced with concerns of
14 negative impacts on fisheries, by cooling water intake
15 operations, PSEG responded with the largest private
16 wetlands restoration project in the world.

17 The Estuary and Enhancement program began
18 in 1994, and since that time has had large scale
19 efforts to restore and preserve portions of the
20 Delaware River estuary, in both New Jersey and
21 Delaware.

22 It has restored, enhanced and/or preserved
23 more than 20,000 acres of salt marsh, and adjacent
24 uplands to vital, healthy habitat for fish and
25 wildlife.

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1 The Academy commends PSEG on its
2 demonstrative initiative, and long-term commitment to
3 restoring the critical wetlands of the Delaware River
4 estuary.

5 The Delaware enhancement program has had
6 numerous positive impacts on the ecology and
7 biodiversity of the region, and has made important
8 contributions to the recreation and educational
9 opportunities available to local communities.

10 The scale and scope of these efforts has
11 supported large scale scientific research, and has
12 improved our understanding of the process of
13 environmental restoration.

14 The proposed new construction will
15 permanently impact approximately 230 acres of
16 wetlands. While protection of wetlands is a high
17 national priority, the majority of the wetlands
18 acreage impacted by the new construction, has a
19 degraded hydro period that is now a host of mono
20 culture of phragmites.

21 An invasive reed plant, phragmites is
22 often found in disturbed marsh areas, where plant
23 communities, hydrology and topography have been
24 altered.

25 Phragmites displaces native plants, and

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1 has a negative impact on biodiversity. Targeting
2 these degraded wetlands in close proximity of the
3 existing facilities, will reduce the need for new
4 infrastructure, minimizing the environmental
5 disturbance that would result if development occurred
6 in green field sort of sites.

7 Moreover, the amount of wetlands impacted
8 represent a small fraction of the total wetland, many
9 with higher quality functions present in the vicinity
10 of the construction.

11 In addition, 85 acres of the wetland being
12 permanently altered by the construction are located in
13 the Army Corps of Engineers disposal facility. This
14 has been a site for dumping of spoils from deepening
15 of the Delaware River channel.

16 It is surrounded by dikes, and not open to
17 tidal influences. It is unlikely that this site
18 supports high level wetlands functions, and utilizing
19 it, where the permanent construction is necessary,
20 will limit overall wetland impacts.

21 PSEG is making acceptable efforts to
22 restrict impact on these wetlands, including a site
23 plan to minimize encroachment, the use of sediment
24 pits to stage some of the construction operations, and
25 the use of raised causeways, rather than using fill

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1 material to carry the access road to the new site.

2 Where permanent disturbance to wetlands
3 occurs, PSEG has outlined a tentative mitigation plan
4 that would create new wetland environments, in
5 adequate amounts, to offset any loss.

6 We anticipate that the resources and
7 expertise in the development of the Estuary
8 Enhancement Program will provide a very strong
9 foundation for the mitigation steps being taken by
10 PSEG, and the new site construction, both in selecting
11 the mitigation sites, and managing the restored and
12 enhanced wetland sites.

13 In addition to the steps being taken, to
14 protect wetlands impacted by the construction, the
15 aquatic impacts of the proposed facility will be
16 limited by the use of a closed-cycle cooling system.

17 Compared to the once through system, these
18 cooling towers will divert much less water for
19 cooling. Projected maximum diversion, for the new
20 facility, is less than four percent, depending on the
21 type of facility of the current use by Salem, and is
22 less than .05 percent of the total volume of the
23 Delaware flow.

24 As a result the impingement on fish
25 population will be a small fraction of the current

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1 levels at the Salem Station.

2 Finally, although this does not relate
3 directly to the environmental impacts of the new
4 plant, I would like to add my thoughts on the
5 projected prospects of global climate change.

6 As an environmental scientist I believe
7 that it is no exaggeration to say that climate change
8 represents the singular environmental threat of the
9 coming century.

10 Even for the development of the new plant,
11 the reality of sea level rise could be a factor, and
12 must be taken into account into the new facility.

13 While I'm not an expert in energy
14 generation, there is no question that the future
15 welfare of human society depends on reducing use and
16 developing zero carbon sources of energy.

17 Many experts have indicated that nuclear
18 plant represents a viable alternative, in the short
19 term, and must be part of any mix of conservation, and
20 energy sources, that are used to make the transition
21 to a zero carbon future.

22 Let me conclude by saying that I have had
23 the opportunity to observe PSEG's operations for a
24 number of years, and I'm impressed by their
25 willingness to respond to environmental constraints in

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1 their planning.

2 They have embraced ecological science as a
3 planning tool, for engineering, and have been
4 proactive in seeking the guidance of experts to reduce
5 their environmental impact.

6 The Estuary Enhancement Program represents
7 a long-term commitment to the region, and the natural
8 resources. And I would expect the commitment to
9 continue with the proposed new construction. Thank
10 you very much.

11 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, David.
12 Now we are going to go to Norm Meadow.

13 DR. MEADOW: My name is Dr. Norman Meadow,
14 and I'm the First Vice President of the Maryland
15 Conservation Council, and two other members of the
16 MCC's Board will speak here today, and we thank you
17 for the opportunity to present our views.

18 The MCC is one of the oldest conservation
19 groups in Maryland, and has worked for 41 years to
20 protect Maryland's natural heritage.

21 In November of 2007 our Board voted to
22 support Unistar's request for a third reactor in
23 Maryland, on the Chesapeake Bay. And we may be the
24 only conservation group, in our state, to adopt such a
25 policy.

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1 Our reason is that we believe that nuclear
2 power is the most reliable way to produce electricity
3 without carbon dioxide emissions. That it is a very
4 low risk, and that it minimizes damage to habitat, and
5 threats to biological diversity, which are a major
6 concern for a conservation organization.

7 And these principles, obviously, apply
8 equally well in New Jersey, as they do in Maryland.

9 I'm also a research biochemist retired
10 after 35 years in the Department of Biology at Johns
11 Hopkins University. And at this point I have to
12 comment that when I started on my PDH work at the
13 University of Pennsylvania, 50 years ago, I got some
14 help from Ruth Patrick in getting that going.

15 It is quite a coincidence. I had to use
16 radio tracer isotopes throughout my whole career in
17 basic research, and so I was legally required to
18 understand their health hazards, and I guess I have to
19 thank the NRC for that one.

20 So I'm going to speak about the health and
21 safety aspects of nuclear power technology. And I
22 believe that concerns about health underlie almost all
23 objections to nuclear power.

24 Arguments about cost, construction delays,
25 loan guarantees and such, I believe are mostly

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1 surrogates to reinforced policies that really are
2 driven by fear of nuclear power.

3 We believe, that is the MCC, that the NRC
4 is an unbiased overseer of the nuclear industry, and
5 is not a pawn in the hands of that industry. The NRC's
6 evaluation of the radiological doses that are stated
7 in the Environmental report will be a stringent
8 review.

9 And these doses are totally consistent
10 with those from past radiological events. The MCC has
11 concluded that there is no scientifically credible
12 evidence that health has been harmed by a water
13 moderator reactor.

14 And this includes the reactor at Three
15 Mile Island. We are going to submit written comments
16 that will support this, and the other points that we
17 are going to make today.

18 The reactor accident at Chernobyl is
19 frequently used to spread fear about commercial
20 reactors in the U.S., and this is wrong.

21 The Chernobyl reactor was designed to make
22 plutonium for nuclear weapons, as well as to generate
23 electricity. And it was because of that design, that
24 an accident like Chernobyl's cannot happen at a
25 commercial reactor in the United States.

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1 And, furthermore, the Chernobyl reactor
2 was not protected by either a pressure vessel, or a
3 containment building, whereas those two structures, at
4 Three Mile Island, safely contained a melted core, and
5 prevented any health damage.

6 And it is an irony, as a matter of fact,
7 that American commercial reactors are now burning
8 material from Russian nuclear bombs, and making
9 electricity from it here in the United States.

10 You will hear that reactors are a threat
11 to wildlife, but humans are among the species most
12 sensitive to radioactivity, and their health has not
13 been harmed.

14 What will be an immeasurably small effect
15 on wildlife from regulated releases, should be
16 contrasted with the extensive damage to habitat, that
17 would result from renewable installations, which you
18 will hear about shortly.

19 The storage of spent fuel is widely
20 thought to be a hazard. But a recent proposal from
21 the Health Physics Society, which is the professional
22 scientific society of radiation safety officers,
23 states that dry cask storage of spent fuel for several
24 hundred years, will reduce its radioactivity to the
25 point where reprocessing would not be difficult.

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1 And this very valuable fuel could then be
2 reused. This interim storage would eliminate the
3 necessity for storing large masses of radioactive
4 material in a site like Yucca Mountain, where it must
5 remain physically and chemically stable for hundreds
6 of thousands of years.

7 And the NRC has already approved the
8 safety of dry casks. Finally, there is an opinion
9 that the transportation of high level radioactive
10 material would be a hazard, and that is also wrong.

11 The NRC and the National Academy of
12 Sciences, have stated that current policies for rail
13 transportation, practically eliminate the hazard of a
14 rail accident, or a fire in a railroad tunnel. And
15 they have also said that the transportation casks are
16 very robust, and will survive any credible rail
17 accident without leakage.

18 So, in summary, the MCC has concluded that
19 no aspect of commercial nuclear power production
20 represents a significant hazard to public health, and
21 we urge that the DEIS approve construction of this
22 reactor. Thank you.

23 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Norm.
24 And Ken Lewis?

25 DR. LEWIS: My name is Dr. Kenneth Lewis,

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1 and I'm also here to speak for the Maryland
2 Conservation Council, in support of PSEG's proposal to
3 build another nuclear reactor here near Salem, New
4 Jersey.

5 We have a unique perspective with regard
6 to environmental concerns relative to large industrial
7 power facilities, as we have, since 1972 been a
8 partner within an environmental trust that includes
9 Dominion Energy, that manage environmental issues at
10 the 1,000 acre Cove Point Maryland Natural Gas
11 Facility in Lusby, Maryland.

12 As previously stated, we believe that
13 nuclear power, as a source for clean, reliable, carbon
14 free electrical generation, is the best solution to
15 the nation's current and future energy needs.

16 And it poses the least potential threat to
17 the natural environment, when compared with other
18 generation sources, such as wind, solar, and biomass.

19 In evaluating environmental issues
20 relative to this nuclear power facility, and
21 alternative energy sources, that might be proposed to
22 negate the necessity, biomass is one proposal that is
23 mentioned.

24 This proposed 2,200 megawatt nuclear
25 facility, sited on 350 acres, operating at a slightly

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1 conservative capacity of 90 percent, will produce
2 1,980 megawatts.

3 By comparison, to grow enough switch grass
4 to fire boilers for electrical generation, equal to
5 the output of this proposed facility, assuming a
6 middle range per acre harvest of switch grass, would
7 require 3,700 square miles.

8 That area required in this particular
9 region, makes the solution really not of any
10 consideration, because it represents about 40 percent
11 of the state area.

12 Another alternative, solar cell
13 installations on open land, requires large areas, and
14 poses a significant threat to the flora and fauna in
15 the geographical regions in which they are proposed.

16 For example, at Nellis Air Force Base in
17 the Nevada desert, one megawatt devices installations
18 on 9.3 acres of land, with solar tracking devices,
19 which makes them highly efficient.

20 In New Jersey, where the sun is less
21 intense, a 275 square mile installation would be
22 required to equal the electrical output of the
23 proposed reactor.

24 Solar cells installed on existing
25 structure may not pose any, as yet, recognized threat

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1 to the environment. And we support that particular
2 application.

3 There are two key sections in every EIS.
4 The first is an analysis of the cumulative impacts of
5 the proposed action, and the second is an analysis of
6 the alternatives to the proposed action.

7 Thus, the EIS states: Cumulative impacts
8 result from the effects of an action are added to, or
9 interact, with other past, present, or reasonably
10 foreseeable future effects on the same resource.

11 And, further, these combined impacts
12 include individually minor, but collectively
13 potentially significant actions taking place over a
14 period of time.

15 To many environmental groups renewable
16 energy is a preferable alternative to nuclear
17 reactors. To those concerned with the conservation of
18 biological diversity, however, the cumulative
19 ecological impacts of large scale, renewable projects,
20 will be their most detrimental effect.

21 We believe that concerns for the
22 cumulative ecological impacts of the alternatives,
23 wind, solar, and biomass, should be included in the
24 final EIS, as a reason for rejecting them as an
25 alternative to nuclear power.

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1 In conclusion, we believe that the
2 proposed nuclear power facility is the best option for
3 electrical generation, for the region, with the least
4 risk for environmental degradation.

5 We have reviewed the materials outlining
6 PSEG's previous environmental enhancements, and
7 believe where mitigation and/or remediation is
8 required for any local environmental degradation, they
9 have the ability, and the proven experience, to do it
10 in a way that is acceptable to the environmental
11 overseers. Thank you.

12 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you very much.

13 We are going to go to Ajax Eastman, and then we are
14 going to hear from Bob Molzahn, and then Roger
15 Locandro, and Jim Applegate.

16 MR. EASTMAN: My name is Ajax Eastman, and
17 I'm a founder and past president of the Maryland
18 Conservation Council, whose primary purpose is the
19 protection of Maryland's natural resources.

20 I'm also a reformed nuclear energy
21 opponent, who has studied all options for our energy
22 future, and has now concluded that nuclear energy is
23 the most reliable, carbon-free, and least ecologically
24 damaging option available.

25 That is why I'm here, today, to support

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1 PSEG's Early Site Permit. In addition, I urge that
2 the cumulative ecological impacts of alternative
3 energy generating sources be included in the
4 Environmental Impact Statement, in order to show that,
5 by comparison, nuclear energy is far preferable, is a
6 far preferable option.

7 The PSEG site application, part three,
8 environmental reports, contains a good analysis of the
9 renewable options compared to the nuclear option. The
10 ESP concludes that wind turbines, solar thermal power,
11 and photovoltaic technologies, due to the
12 intermittency of wind and sun, are not competitive to
13 the reliability of nuclear power.

14 I'm particularly interested in addressing
15 the biological impacts of renewables, primarily wind.

16 This technology has had a huge impact on the
17 biological world.

18 In order to produce an equivalent amount
19 of energy, wind requires an enormous footprint. As
20 pointed out, in their Environmental Report, quote, to
21 replace the energy equivalent of a 2,000 MWe of
22 nuclear capacity, operating at 90 percent capacity
23 factor, approximately 3,300 two MWes, wind turbines,
24 operating at a capacity factor of 30 percent, would be
25 required.

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1 These turbines would be sited on 396,000
2 acres. That is 619 square miles, and disturbs 19,800,
3 or 31 acres, or 31 square miles, to accommodate the
4 physical footprint of the towers themselves.

5 I like that the ESP's comparison of that
6 amount of land, I like the comparison to 15 times the
7 area of Norfolk, that is a lot of land.

8 Whether the area is on land, or offshore,
9 it is mind boggling to think of the potential harm,
10 and humongous impacts of industrial wind. On land,
11 particularly, the Appalachian Mountains of the East,
12 the 396,000 acres, required, would destroy the mainly
13 unfragmented, biologically rich forests, which are not
14 only habitat for bats and nesting neo-tropical birds,
15 but also habitat for terrestrial flora and fauna.

16 The area is, also, a major migratory
17 corridor for birds, bats, and raptors. Yet without
18 full review of environmental impacts, or cost to
19 taxpayers and customers, permits are being granted.

20 As for the impacts offshore, we really
21 can't know the full extent of the harm turbines will
22 have on the aquatic resources, benthic organisms,
23 oceanic mammals, or pelagic birds.

24 Where is the precautionary principle in
25 the blind acceptance of, and push for, such a

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1 destructive form of energy?

2 Another factor to consider, in comparing
3 nuclear power to wind, is the life expectancy of the
4 turbines. Many of the nuclear reactors, in the United
5 States, are over 40 years old, and are still producing
6 energy at 90 percent capacity.

7 Whereas the thousands of turbines, being
8 proposed, or already built, have a life expectancy of
9 only 25 years, at a 30 percent capacity factor.

10 After reviewing the Estuary Enhancement
11 Program, by PSEG, I'm impressed by their innovative
12 mitigation measures, such as wetland restoration,
13 phragmites control, fish protection at the nuclear
14 sites, restoration of anadromous fish migration,
15 through fish ladders, research, et cetera.

16 These programs have resulted in long
17 lasting benefits for the saltwater estuary, including
18 expanded biological diversity and habitats, breeding
19 areas, food sources for aquatic, terrestrial, and
20 avian species, especially threatened and endangered
21 species, and better water quality.

22 This leads me to believe that PSEG will do
23 an excellent job of mitigation in the future. And I
24 was really pleased to hear that the proposed site for
25 these new reactors will be on land that is primarily

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1 phragmites, right now. That is a good thing to get
2 rid of.

3 These factors are major part of the reason
4 that the Maryland Conservation Council is bucking the
5 trend of most of the major environmental groups, in
6 our enthusiastic support of nuclear energy, and our
7 opposition to most of the renewable options,
8 particularly wind.

9 Thank you very much for consideration of
10 our testimony.

11 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you. You can
12 give it to Ed, and -- thank you.

13 DR. EASTMAN: Thank you for the
14 opportunity.

15 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Absolutely. Bob?

16 MR. MOLZAHN: Thank you for holding this
17 meeting today. My name is Robert Molzahn, and I'm
18 President of the Water Resources Association of the
19 Delaware River Basin, or WRA.

20 WRA is a 501-C3 non-profit organization
21 established in 1959 by representatives from industry,
22 public and private utilities, and other organizations
23 that had wide ranging interests in water resources,
24 and sought to ensure public participation in the
25 management of the Delaware River and its tributaries.

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1 WRA is interested in PSEG's proposed
2 project, because the proposed nuclear plant would be a
3 major water user located in the Delaware River basin,
4 and it is an important part of the economy of New
5 Jersey, and the region at large.

6 As we mentioned, the meeting is intended
7 to receive public comment on the PSEG proposal. And
8 to identify possible, in our case, water related
9 environmental impacts that need to be considered in
10 developing an Environmental Impact Statement for the
11 project, and in minimizing the project's impact during
12 construction and operation.

13 At the May 4th, 2010 public meeting that
14 NRC held on the project I commented on the importance
15 of providing additional electrical generating capacity
16 to meet the energy needs of New Jersey residents and
17 businesses.

18 These comments are, of course, still
19 applicable, especially the need to provide base load
20 generating capacity, supplemented by renewable energy
21 projects, such as wind and solar, in New Jersey.

22 I also mentioned that PSEG new nuclear
23 unit will provide power for more than 3 million homes
24 each day, as opposed to fossil fuel power plants, and
25 there will be no green house gas emissions, such as

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1 CO2 or methane, as was mentioned by previous speakers.

2 No SO2 or NOX emissions that could
3 contribute to acid rain, or nitrification of our
4 waterways. And also no mercury emissions that could
5 detrimentally affect aquatic life in the Delaware
6 River and Bay.

7 In reviewing the PSEG Early Site Permit
8 application, and Environmental Report filed on May
9 25th, 2010, we noted that the new units intake and
10 cooling systems will be designed to minimize the
11 impact to the aquatic community, by utilizing cooling
12 towers, and an intake system and design flows that
13 conform to best available technology as required under
14 Section 316B of the Clean Water Act.

15 The cooling tower blow-down discharge
16 should have little impact on the Delaware River, at
17 this location, or significantly elevate river water
18 temperatures.

19 Consumptive water use is an important
20 issue on the Delaware River basin, especially during
21 drought periods. Although the proposed plant is
22 located in the salient estuary, fresh water will still
23 be evaporated by the cooling towers and, thereby,
24 consumed.

25 During declared drought emergency the

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1 fresh water consumed should be replaced, at an
2 appropriate ratio, by using water release from the
3 Merrill Creek Reservoir, near Phillipsburg, New
4 Jersey.

5 PSEG, along with several other electric
6 generating companies, is a co-owner of Merrill Creek.

7 Water release from Merril Creek helps in keeping the
8 salt line, which is a 250 isoclore line from moving
9 upstream to the water intakes for the City of
10 Philadelphia.

11 Merrill Creek was financed, built and
12 operated by electric generating companies for just
13 this purpose.

14 The Environmental Report indicates an
15 overall wetlands impact of about 229 acres, from the
16 new plant, and proposed causeway. It is further
17 indicated that there is an abundance of wetlands in
18 the vicinity, totaling more than 25,000 acres, and the
19 quality of a dominant species, as we heard previously,
20 is phragmites.

21 Additional lands targeted for acquisition
22 through a land right exchange to the north of the
23 site, are part of an existing Army Corps of Engineers
24 confined disposal facility area that is surrounded by
25 dikes and not open to the tides.

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1 PSEG would reduce environmental impacts by
2 placing permanent facilities inside these diked areas.

3 And compensation for use of these wetlands, we would
4 recommend that PSEG create or restore degraded
5 wetlands, within the Delaware Bay region, at an
6 appropriate compensation ratio.

7 There should be an achievable undertaking
8 by PSEG, as their estuary enhancement program, as we
9 have heard, has been recognized nationally for
10 restoring and protecting over 20,000 acres of wetlands
11 and adjoining properties, in the Delaware estuary, in
12 both New Jersey and Delaware.

13 Although the existing PSEG nuclear complex
14 is an ideal location for an additional unit, because
15 all of the important conveyance systems are in place,
16 and those will not have to be developed, such as they
17 would if it was a greenfield site.

18 New improvements, such as roadways, should
19 be carefully placed and designed to minimize their
20 impact on marshlands. An elevated road system would
21 be a design that would help minimize these impacts.

22 We encourage PSEG to pursue such a design,
23 and develop a comprehensive wetlands mitigation and
24 compensation plan for these impacts.

25 Sea level rise and storm surge are also a

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1 concern of the proposed facility, critical structures
2 should be elevated, or waterproofed, at an appropriate
3 elevation to ensure their protection.

4 The NRC should review these design plans
5 to conform that they are protected for sea level rise.

6 WRA recognizes that PSEG has demonstrated a long-
7 standing commitment to the environment, and to their
8 credit, has been a national leader in the electric
9 utility industry for emphasizing environmentally
10 sustainable solutions in their operations.

11 Thank you for the opportunity to present
12 our comments.

13 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you very much.

14 And Dr. Locandro, and then we are going to go to Jim
15 Applegate.

16 DR. LOCANDRO: Thank you for the
17 opportunity to be with you this afternoon, to add my
18 own personal comments, about the permit.

19 I'm Roger Locandro, retired emeritus
20 professor at Rutgers University. I have been part of
21 the State Fish and Game Council, I have been part of
22 the Federal Fishery Management program, under NOAA,
23 chaired the Habitat Committee, and cataloged the
24 ecology on the sites where the plants are now, before
25 the plants were established, including the one over at

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1 Oyster Creek.

2 I am pleased to offer these comments to
3 support the approval of the ESP requested by PSEG to
4 proceed with plans to construct a new nuclear power
5 plant, adjacent to the two in-service plants, Salem
6 Creek, and Hope Creek.

7 I'm familiar with the construction of
8 artificial island, and have taught on the site since
9 prior to the construction. And I'm aware that it is
10 displaced soil spoil, dredge spoil and, thus, it is
11 called Artificial Island.

12 Nuclear energy, of course, supplies over
13 50 percent of the energy in the state of New Jersey.
14 That is a big change from the time I was 10, 12 years
15 old, where everything pretty much came from coal, and
16 from somewhere else.

17 So we are pleased to see a quick change to
18 new, efficient, clean, low carbon form of energy
19 production, for the needs, as the needs continue to
20 grow in the State of New Jersey.

21 Much of the needed science, on the Early
22 Site Permit should be, really, right at hand, since
23 this is a contiguous site that is being proposed.
24 Their track record has been good. I, personally, have
25 observed the impingement and entrainment process,

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1 since I also teach fishery science, and fishery
2 research, and have had an opportunity to testify as to
3 the value, not only the impingement and entrainment
4 process, but also the continued elevation of new
5 technology, as it came on the scene.

6 Particularly impressed, from an
7 ecologist's standpoint, were the tremendous input and
8 environmental plus that they took a 20,000 acre
9 restoration program, instituted by PSEG, has provided
10 in the environment.

11 It is a real, it is internationally
12 recognized as something of real value, and it
13 certainly has made a major change in the ecosystem, in
14 those areas where it has already been established, and
15 we are very optimistic about the program continuing on
16 into the future.

17 A new plant will provide an excellent
18 opportunity to incorporate new technology, hopefully
19 to produce cleaner, safer energy, and especially if a
20 cooling tower is incorporated into the new plans.

21 I'm familiar with the impingement and
22 entrainment, as I said. The much reduced need for
23 water in a cooling tower process, you know, will
24 reduce much of that impact, considerably.

25 I know of no scientific study that proves

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1 that the present cooling processes, at Salem and Hope
2 Creek has generated any impact on the estuary. It can
3 be debated, it can be argued.

4 But I have not seen a scientific study
5 that really proves that fact. After reviewing the EPS
6 request, I find no reason to deny the requested
7 permit.

8 The real planning, certainly, will come
9 not with the Early Site Permit, but with the actual
10 details of planning the new plant design.

11 My questions would include concern for
12 extreme floods, which may be different now than when
13 the original plants were put into existence, adequate
14 entrance and egress systems, maintaining a good,
15 continuous dialogue with the community.

16 And an insistence as we do with NOAA
17 projects, that only the best science be incorporated
18 in making decisions for a new plant. Thank you very
19 much.

20 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, doctor.
21 And I'm going to ask Jim Applegate to come down, and
22 then we are going to go to T.J. Richardson, Jack
23 Kugler, and Dr. Edward Salmon.

24 And here is Jim Applegate.

25 MR. APPLEGATE: Thank you for the

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1 opportunity to be here this afternoon. My name is Jim
2 Applegate, I'm retired from the same department as
3 Roger Locandro, department of ecology, evolution, and
4 natural resources, at Rutgers University in New
5 Brunswick.

6 I was a professor of natural resources for
7 32 years. Two of my activities at Rutgers are
8 relevant to today's hearing. First I initiated and
9 administered a course for all incoming students at
10 Cook College.

11 That course spanned the last 18 years of
12 my career at Rutgers, and it enrolled approximately
13 600 to 700 students each year. The course was
14 delivered by faculty from throughout the college, in
15 discussion sessions, of no more than 24 students.

16 We had several objectives for that course.

17 One was to expose the students to the kinds of real
18 world problems that are addressed by the programs of
19 the Land Grant University.

20 Another was to show the students, by
21 example, how one develops informed positions based on
22 critical reading, analysis of data, reasoned
23 discussion, and thoughtful reflection.

24 The topics we chose changed frequently.
25 Course materials for a topic were selected by a

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1 steering committee of our faculty instructors. It was
2 rare that a faculty section instructor was an expert
3 in the subjects we addressed.

4 Not surprisingly, one of the issues we
5 included regularly was global warming. Through
6 critical analysis, available publication and data, the
7 collective conclusion of this diverse group of faculty
8 and students, was that world climate was warming at a
9 rate unprecedented in the geological record.

10 And that the most likely cause was the
11 atmospheric accumulations of the gas products, of
12 burning fossil fuels.

13 Because Cook College programs addressed
14 practical solutions to problems, after considering
15 what is the problem, we explored what can we do about
16 it.

17 In the case of global warming our
18 solutions fell into three categories. First, let's
19 reduce our demand for energy. More efficient fuel
20 construction in the transportation sector, better
21 construction design, both in new construction and
22 retrofitting existing living and working spaces, were
23 top candidates.

24 We recognized, however, that the economics of
25 inexpensive fossil fuels made voluntary action

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1 unlikely, without government incentives. Our second
2 class of solutions was bringing more renewable energy
3 sources online.

4 Here we liked solar energy, wind energy,
5 and biofuels. At the time we were discussing these
6 ideas, we had only limited experience with these
7 technologies.

8 Experience, over the past decade, tells
9 that each of these solutions comes with a cost. We
10 cover fragile desert habitats with solar panels, while
11 ignoring the warehouse rooftops, and other existing
12 opportunities that would have much less impact.

13 Wind energy leaves a construction and
14 service footprint at the expense of wildlife habitats,
15 and operation can have serious impacts on mortality of
16 migrating birds.

17 Land growing biofuels have very limited
18 wildlife habitat value. Barry Commoner was right, 50
19 years ago, there is no such thing as a free lunch.

20 Our third option was reexamination of
21 nuclear power generation. A technology not considered
22 a part of the package while we taught that course but,
23 evidently, back on the table, as evidenced by this
24 hearing.

25 We recognized the value of generating

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1 large amounts of usable energy without increasing
2 greenhouse gases. We worried about safety issues, and
3 even more, about the lack of a long-term safe
4 repository for nuclear wastes.

5 We weren't experts, our concerns were
6 real. The second dimension of my Rutgers experience
7 that relates to this hearing is my teaching of field
8 ecology, a course in which we traveled the state,
9 learning about natural history, and how people use
10 land.

11 It is a blend of geology, soils, botany,
12 zoology, economics and history, helping the students
13 learn how existing landscapes are the result of the
14 complexity of all of these interacting elements.

15 During the re-permitting of the existing
16 nuclear facilities at Salem, PSEG developed a bay-wide
17 concept of mitigating the impacts of the existing
18 cooler apparatus at those facilities.

19 They were creative in identifying a
20 variety of ways that the bay-wide resource value could
21 be improved through investment in projects, throughout
22 the Delaware Bay Estuary.

23 I was attracted by the scope of their
24 thinking, and the resources they could bring to the
25 table. I testified in favor of this mitigation idea

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1 at the repermitting hearings.

2 Since then I have followed, with my
3 students, and with great interest, what has become the
4 largest estuarine enhancement project in the world.

5 Without going into any details, the
6 project has been, in my mind, a resounding success at
7 many levels, in increasing the resource value of large
8 acreages throughout the bay.

9 PSEG has a solid track record in
10 delivering on their commitment to bay-wide health.
11 Returning, finally, to the purpose of this hearing,
12 should this project move forward with construction,
13 there will be on-site habitat impacts that will be
14 unavoidable.

15 I urge the process to embrace the same
16 bay-wide approach used in the estuarine enhancement
17 program, and to be creative and aggressive, in
18 identifying off-site mitigation opportunity.

19 Hold PSEG's feet to the fire. History
20 suggests that they will deliver. Thank you very much.

21 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Jim. Is
22 T.J. Richardson, and then we will go to Jack Kugler,
23 and Dr. Salmon. This is T.J.

24 MR. RICHARDSON: Thank you. My name is
25 T.J. Richardson, I have been in the nuclear industry,

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1 now, for just over four years. The last three I have
2 been at PSEG as an engineer.

3 First thing I noticed, when I came to
4 PSEG, was just their open communications throughout
5 all levels of the organization, through senior
6 management, all the way down to the worker.

7 You will get the typical emails about
8 praise for a job well done, and celebrating our
9 accomplishments. But you also get detailed
10 communications about all the decisions we are making
11 as a company, from the corporate level, all the way
12 down to why are we deciding to shut the unit down to
13 make some emergent repairs.

14 So that kind of communication helps you
15 trust the company, trust the organization, and really
16 shows what kind of morals the company has.

17 Within my first six months of being at the
18 company, I was invited to attend a breakfast with the
19 CEO. He showed a strong passion for just our
20 continued ability to provide reliable and green
21 energy.

22 Obviously if we are able to build a new
23 nuclear plant we will just continue with that in the
24 future.

25 During my time as an engineer, at PSEG, I

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1 have had a lot of opportunities to work with
2 operations, and observed day to day plant operations.

3 And I could tell you that everything we do is safe,
4 and reliable, and done in accordance with our strict
5 procedure standards.

6 In addition we continue to be a learning
7 organization. We learn every day from our
8 experiences, as well as all the other nuclear plants
9 in the country and in the world.

10 So I can tell you that I'm excited for the
11 opportunity to see a new nuclear plant built, and
12 definitely support the application for the Early Site
13 Permit. Thanks.

14 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay, thank you,
15 T.J. And, Jack Kugler? And then we will go to Dr.
16 Salmon and to Michael Weinstein.

17 MR. KUGLER: Thank you. My name is Jack
18 Kugler, I'm the Executive Director of the Salem County
19 Improvement Authority. And I'm here representing my
20 board today, along with the 125 employees in
21 supporting PSEG's efforts to build and operate a
22 fourth nuclear unit here in Salem County.

23 Part of the responsibility of the
24 Improvement Authority, here in Salem County, is
25 directing the economic development efforts, in

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1 supporting both large and small businesses, by helping
2 them expand, and growing their opportunities.

3 This new application represents the
4 principles in which the county's economic development
5 strategy is based on. And that being green
6 technology, and construction methods, sustainability,
7 focus location on preservation of open space, regional
8 cooperation, creation of a wide range of employment
9 opportunities, reduction in property taxes, and
10 transparent and civil involvement.

11 As the County Economic Development engine,
12 we have partnered with PSEG in the past, on various
13 projects. A couple of those being the Gateway
14 Business Park, and the County of Salem's Energy
15 Services building.

16 It has always been our experience, when
17 dealing with PSEG, that they operate at the highest
18 levels of integrity, and they certainly understand
19 their civic responsibilities.

20 PSEG's management consistently provides us
21 with updates on their operational issues, they also
22 serve on a wide range of volunteer board and civic
23 organizations, which helps spur the economic
24 development in these tough times.

25 I would just like to mention a few things,

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1 that the key facts would be related, if this
2 application is approved. They would generate roughly
3 430 million in sales of goods and services, in the
4 local community.

5 It would create an additional 40 million
6 dollars in total labor income, for the new unit. This
7 plant would create approximately 450 new permanent
8 jobs, that are so desperately needed in Salem County.

9 While under construction it would be
10 roughly 15 to 2,000 construction jobs that would be
11 created. The plant would generate roughly 20 million
12 dollars in state and local tax revenue.

13 There would be educational opportunities,
14 and local infrastructure benefits from the tax
15 revenues. And the facility would roughly generate 75
16 million in federal tax payments annually.

17 Salem County is now recognized as the
18 alternative energy capital of the northeast. Not only
19 are we fortunate enough to have three operating
20 nuclear plants, we recently had ground breaking on
21 significant solar projects that will develop 92
22 megawatts of energy.

23 With the addition of the fourth unit,
24 which has the majority of the infrastructure to
25 support it, we believe that this county, and this

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1 country, is moving in the right direction by creating
2 alternative energy projects, and removing our
3 dependency on foreign oil.

4 Not only is it important to recognize this
5 new application as extremely important to the people
6 of Salem County, but we need to continue to support
7 the ongoing efforts of PSEG as they operate their
8 three existing units.

9 We firmly believe, and know, that PSEG
10 operates their existing units, at the highest levels,
11 with safety and quality being the main ingredient of
12 employee focus.

13 Their record speaks for itself. We know
14 that when the fourth unit goes on line, the same
15 criteria will be the basis for that operation.

16 We know and expect that there will be many
17 challenges for PSEG as this application process moves
18 forward. We also want to know, and we also want them
19 to know, that we will be there to support their
20 efforts, and assist them in any way possible, in
21 making this project a reality. Thank you very much.

22 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you. And this
23 is Edward Salmon, and then we will go to Michael
24 Weinstein.

25 MR. SALMON: Thank you very much, Chip.

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1 It is, certainly, a privilege for me to join you
2 today, and to be with the distinguished speakers that
3 are here, on this hearing.

4 Maybe a little background about myself. I
5 have been an educator for 27 years, a teacher, coach,
6 a school administrator. And for 26 years I was in
7 government as a mayor, as a Freeholder Director, the
8 state legislature, and the Government's Cabinet, as
9 President of the Board of Public Utilities.

10 In that role I had an opportunity to serve
11 two years as vice president of all of the utility
12 regulators in America. And, Chip, I would tell you,
13 during the last 20 years I have worked closely, with
14 the NRC Commissioners, on a number of issues that are
15 facing our nation.

16 And I will tell you this, and I will tell
17 you this from the heart. They are fair, they are
18 honest. And I will tell you no one, it is all based
19 on scientific fact, and there isn't any politics I
20 have ever seen played at the NRC.

21 And I think that speaks highly for the
22 Agency.

23 I'm here, today, to represent the New
24 Jersey Energy Coalition. I have a lot of people,
25 since the coalition was formed, who are members of the

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1 coalition, who are the people that make up this
2 coalition?

3 And I tell them that we try to get
4 everyone involved, in the coalition, and be able to
5 educate them about the energy challenges that New
6 Jersey faces.

7 We have state-wide organizations, like New
8 Jersey Industry and Business, New Jersey State Chamber
9 of Commerce, New Jersey Alliance for Action, and New
10 Jersey Sea.

11 We have educational facilities, like where
12 we are at today, Salem County College is a member. We
13 have unions, like the New Jersey State AFL-CIO, New
14 Jersey International Brotherhood of Electric Workers,
15 New Jersey Carpenters, New Jersey Plumbers and
16 Pipefitters.

17 We have business and industry, we have
18 energy firms, and utilities, civic organizations, and
19 we also have distinguished New Jerseyans.
20 Distinguished New Jerseyans, and we have a multitude
21 of them, people like former Governor Brendon Berm,
22 U.S. Congressman Jim Saxton, U.S. Senator Bill
23 Bradley.

24 People ask, well, what is the purpose of
25 the coalition? And, really, we have two purposes.

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1 One, to be a credible third party voice, and energy
2 issues that face us here in the state. And they also
3 face the nation.

4 And the other is to educate. Being an
5 educator I found so many, really, major leaders in our
6 state, that did not know what the energy issues are,
7 that are facing us here in New Jersey.

8 So we want to educate, and stress the need
9 for a broad energy platform, that includes
10 conservation, green job initiatives, energy
11 efficiency, supply diversity, transmission upgrade,
12 clean baseload generation, and healthy, smart,
13 economically viable, renewable energy projects.

14 Since the coalition was formed, in 2007,
15 it has been actively involved in New Jersey's energy
16 sector at all levels, through a variety of events,
17 forums, and approaches.

18 And one of our most successful events was
19 right here, where the Salem County Board of Chosen
20 Freeholders wanted to put on an Energy Symposium Day.

21 Our goal is to inform and educate citizens,
22 businesses, policymakers, on a need for a strong,
23 focused, diverse set of solutions to meet our state's
24 present, and future energy needs.

25 My comments, today, are focused on our

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1 state's environmental and economic well being. The
2 Coalition's mission is to support clean, affordable,
3 reliable sources of energy, and no form of baseload
4 generation fits that description, better, than nuclear
5 energy.

6 In fact, if you have had an opportunity, I
7 have been to Yucca Mountain four times. And I have
8 watched that develop, and know the need that we have
9 of the right place for a waste disposal plant.

10 We have 104 nuclear facilities in America,
11 and 66 locations, I believe, at 31 states. We need to
12 get moving to double that size in the next ten years.

13 And it does amaze me how long the process
14 takes. If you watched the slides today, you saw that
15 we don't get to the final of this first step, until
16 the spring of 2013.

17 So the process is a long period of time,
18 and I think at some time we have to face, how do we
19 speed that up, so we can make it less expensive, but
20 still do an excellent job of siting nuclear.

21 Nuclear is clean, it produces zero carbon
22 emissions, or critical air pollutants. In 2009,
23 alone, New Jersey's nuclear power plants avoided the
24 emission of 142,000 tons of sulfur dioxide, and 30
25 million, trillion metric tons of carbon dioxide,

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1 emissions that commonly contribute to green house
2 gases, smog, and acid rain.

3 Nuclear energy accounts for 73 percent of
4 the nation's emission-free, electrical generation.
5 And it needs to expand this role, in commitment with
6 other renewable sources, to meet the rising energy
7 demand in an environmentally responsive manner.

8 Alternative sources are important, and we
9 support them. But they only can take us so far. Wind
10 and solar are intermittent, and lack the sheer
11 capacity of baseload plants.

12 Conservation's efforts, energy efficiency
13 enhancements, and a diverse mix of energy sources will
14 serve us best. However, we should promote an increase
15 in the use of nuclear energy, as an environmentally
16 clean and reliable solution.

17 New Jersey needs to better acknowledge and
18 take advantage of this proven technology, capable of
19 providing carbon-free baseload electricity. The
20 development of new nuclear generating facilities is
21 essential if we are going to address climate change,
22 meet demand increases in a meaningful way, and promote
23 energy independence from the Middle East.

24 Changes in federal air regulations, the
25 age of existing facilities, and improving economy, all

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1 signal the need for a new clean baseload power supply.

2 Nuclear energy is, also, affordable and reliable.

3 With rising energy costs, a concern for
4 every American, nuclear power plants are the lowest
5 cost producer of baseload electricity, especially in a
6 region that is densely populated, and whose industry
7 drives demand, nuclear generation's low cost, and
8 reliability, fosters a competitive energy market, and
9 keeps electric costs down for the ratepayer.

10 And in these difficult economic times, the
11 development of a new nuclear facility would provide
12 much needed job growth. The construction phase, as
13 was mentioned by Jack, creates 1,400 to almost 2,000
14 jobs.

15 And when completed, the facility would
16 employ over 450 jobs in local, high paying jobs.
17 Every year nuclear plants generate approximately 430
18 million in sales of goods and services to the local
19 community, not to mention their significant tax
20 benefits that benefit local infrastructure, public
21 services, and schools.

22 We need to keep pace with our state's
23 energy needs. The U.S. Department of Energy predicts
24 that the national electrical demand will increase 28
25 percent by 2035, and to maintain nuclear energy's

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1 current 20 percent contribution, which they do today,
2 we must build about one new reactor per year, starting
3 in 2016.

4 New wind and solar power would definitely
5 play a role in our energy future. But the simple
6 nature of their intermittency requires something more.

7 The New Jersey Energy Coalition supports, strongly,
8 the development of a new nuclear facility here in
9 Salem County, as it will mitigate rising energy
10 demand, with a clean power source that fuels job
11 growth, and strengthens our economy.

12 I think I would just like to end with one
13 comment to all of you. Energy now is playing a major
14 role throughout the country. To me, if we didn't have
15 the war in Iraq, or have the economy issues that we
16 have, it would be the number one issue that we would
17 all be discussing.

18 And there are a lot of options out there
19 that we can all look at. But if we really want to get
20 independence from the Middle East, if we really want
21 to fight global warming, and do a resolution to that
22 issue, if we really want to provide the best green
23 energy possible, the solution is nuclear.

24 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay, thank you.
25 And Michael Weinstein, and then we will go to Earl

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1 Gaye.

2 MR. WEINSTEIN: My name is Mike Weinstein.

3 I have no prepared remarks, but I'm pretty good at
4 preparing remarks, so here goes.

5 I'm another academe, and when I heard my
6 colleagues at the Academy of Natural Sciences in
7 Rutgers speak, I thought I would get up and be a
8 little bit more specific about the estuary
9 enhancement, and the corporation's foresight, and
10 social and corporate responsibility, I believe that
11 they are doing the right thing, with respect to the
12 program that they have developed.

13 I'm the former President and CEO of the
14 New Jersey Marine Sciences Consortium, and I was the
15 Director of New Jersey Sea Grant College program for
16 12 years.

17 I am now the director of the PSEG
18 Institute for Sustainability Studies at Mt. Clair
19 State University, a brand new entity that has just
20 been formed in this past year.

21 With respect to restoration of wetlands,
22 it has been common knowledge, for a long time, that
23 wetlands support the production of most commercial and
24 recreational fin fish and shellfish species, that we
25 all enjoy eating, or capturing, or both.

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1 To the extent that you can find citations
2 in the literature, Irand and Lacy, for example, that
3 say 95 percent of all commercial and recreational
4 species produced, marine species produced in the
5 United States, require wetlands as essential habitats
6 during their first year of life.

7 Let me make a correction. One of my
8 colleagues, I think it was the person from Rutgers
9 said that this was the largest wetland restoration
10 effort in the world. That is not true, Everglades is
11 much larger, and XX in Louisiana is much larger.

12 It is the largest privately financed
13 wetland restoration project in the world. I think
14 that still holds.

15 But let me talk about those wetlands a
16 little bit more, okay? And I know I have limited
17 time, and I will try to be brief. The company had the
18 foresight, long before the Estuarine Restoration Act
19 was passed, with the goal of restoring a million
20 estuarine acres, including many wetlands, in the U.S.
21 by the year 2010.

22 Long before that Act was passed, and the
23 guardian of that act became two entities, essentially,
24 Restore America's Estuaries, a practitioner coalition
25 nation-wide. Actually now world-wide.

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1 And the Community Restoration Center, NOAA
2 Restoration Center, Community Based Restoration Center
3 which has, I think, a collective budget, over the
4 years, now exceeding 28 million dollars.

5 Before that became in the public venue,
6 unpopular, restoring wetlands is a good thing, and we
7 needed to know why, of course. Long before that
8 became the popular trend, the company PSEG had been
9 developing this program as a cost-effective basis for
10 offsetting the effects of the power plant, with
11 respect to its take of fin fish and shellfish.

12 And the goal was to produce enough wetland
13 acreage, or to conserve and restore enough wetland
14 acreage, to produce the number of equivalent adults
15 that would be lost at the facility.

16 So let me close with a series of
17 statistics, if I may. First of all, as Seagrant
18 Director, I was able to enter into a public private
19 partnership with the company.

20 The company put up 750,000 dollars over
21 five years, and we Seagrant Directors, in 11 states
22 around the nation, matched those funds, to do some of
23 the basic and applied research to understand what was
24 going on, as we were restoring these sites.

25 One of those projects funded a young lady

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1 by the name of Kristen Solenstol at Yale University.
2 She was the first of many people trying, with that
3 funding, to demonstrate that the variety of phragmites
4 that we call "bad" is actually an introduced variety,
5 probably from either Asia, or Europe, or probably
6 both.

7 That was part of this Marsh Ecology
8 Research Program, or the MERP, as we called it. All
9 of these funds were parlayed into many federal grants.

10 For example, I have been funded by the EPA, by NOAA,
11 several agencies within NOAA, ANS, Solestol Kennedy, I
12 have received NSF funding.

13 All as part of the programmatic
14 opportunity, at the Estuary Enhancement Program
15 created for people interested in understanding how to
16 do this restoration, how to make it effective, and why
17 it actually works.

18 Two contributions, three contributions
19 that will be the last I say. Three contributions that
20 we made, that come immediately to mind is, as a group,
21 the scientists involved in the Estuary Enhancement
22 Program developed the practitioner skills, or methods,
23 for restoring wetlands.

24 What kinds of criteria and metrics should
25 you be thinking about, when you go in to restore a

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1 site? Those metrics have been fully adopted by
2 Restore America's Estuaries, and has been published as
3 a public document by them. We published it, of course,
4 in the peer reviewed literature, on our own.

5 Secondly, one of the toughest things to
6 do, when you are trying to look at these restored
7 sites with respect to the returns of functions and
8 processes, as opposed to the structure of these sites,
9 it is relatively easy to grow grass. I apologize to
10 my friends in the Corps.

11 But you are the guys that told me to keep
12 it simple, stupid. We can defend 85 percent survival
13 after three years in court, to a wetland ecologist
14 that means absolutely nothing, other than you are
15 pretty good at growing grass, which I guess is not
16 bad.

17 But here is what we have done. We have
18 been able to demonstrate, given the extreme
19 variability around any mean you calculate, in these
20 sites, in terms of processes and functions, that the
21 20 plus thousand acres produced a new increment of
22 secondary production of these fin fish and shellfish
23 that exceeded the loss, again as I said before, of
24 equivalent adults.

25 Also we have been able to document,

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1 everybody says phragmites is bad, and we suspected for
2 a long time that it had to do with habitat, and other
3 functional processes.

4 Some of our research has now demonstrated
5 that a fish growing up in a phragmites dominated
6 marsh, whatever the combination of factors is, and I
7 should say to you, much to the company's chagrin, I
8 was able with my colleagues to demonstrate that carbon
9 nitrogen nutrients from phragmites is, indeed, finding
10 its way into this fish.

11 But the quality of the animal, the end of
12 the growing season, falls short of the quality of an
13 animal in a "naturally cord grass dominated marsh". In
14 other words, they can't put down the energy reserves,
15 for migration and overwintering, if they grow up in a
16 phragmites marsh.

17 I mention that we are able to employ new,
18 really state of the art, modeling efforts, something
19 called Echopath and Echosim, if any of you are
20 familiar with it, to demonstrate, once again, that the
21 increment of new production, one is measurable against
22 background, and two, it is equated with the goals of
23 the program.

24 This is one of the most important projects
25 with regard to coastal wetland management, and coastal

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1 management in general, that has been ever undertaken.

2 And I, personally, applaud the foresight of the
3 company to do something like this, when it wasn't
4 considered, at the time, best management practices.

5 And whether it becomes best management
6 practice, regulatory or law, or otherwise it clearly
7 has been. Thank you.

8 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you very much,
9 Mike. And, Earl, and then we are going to go to Brian
10 Verimohom, I'm not sure I'm pronouncing that
11 correctly, Charles Hassler and Brian Duffy.

12 MR. GAYE: Good afternoon, my name is Earl
13 Gaye, and I'm the Administrator for the County of
14 Salem. I work, directly, for the Board of Chosen
15 Freeholders.

16 The Salem County Freeholder Director, Lee
17 Ware was unable to make it this afternoon. He had a
18 slight fall yesterday, and is recuperating very well,
19 but he asked me to stand in and read his remarks for
20 him.

21 We are coming here, before you, this
22 afternoon to let you know that PSEG Nuclear is a
23 valuable asset to our county. Not only are they a
24 great community partner, but they are the county's
25 largest employer.

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1 A majority of their employees are local
2 residents who live in our community. In tough
3 economic times, PSEG Nuclear provides an example of
4 integrity and commitment to positive growth that we
5 all need to see.

6 PSEG takes a very proactive role in
7 developing positive relationships with members of the
8 Salem County Community. Whether it is providing
9 funding and support to local community groups, or
10 attending every community event, they are always
11 demonstrating their commitment to Salem County's proud
12 heritage, and very bright future.

13 We understand the hesitation of those
14 within, and surrounding our county, toward possible
15 nuclear expansion. Their concerns regarding safety,
16 and plant performance, are valid.

17 However, PSEG Nuclear has consistently,
18 and without hesitation, demonstrated its commitment to
19 safety and excellence, through proper planning, and
20 transparency of their plant.

21 And we would also further add that
22 concerning conservation, not only are they our partner
23 in Salem County, but they are a leader in the
24 conservation of not only their estuary programs, but
25 other wildlife programs throughout this region.

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1 With unemployment in the county hovering
2 around 12 percent, the economic possibilities of this
3 expansion cannot be understated. We hope that PSEG
4 will have your support to move forward, as they
5 already have our support, as a valued partner in our
6 community.

7 On behalf of the Freeholder Board I would,
8 again, suggest and ask that we all support PSEG
9 Nuclear, in their endeavors to expand the Salem and
10 Hope Creek stations. Thank you for your time.

11 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, thank you
12 very much, Earl. And, Brian? I'm sorry if I
13 mispronounced your name.

14 MR. VERINOHOM: Good afternoon. On behalf
15 of COL Rick Fuentes, the Director of the New Jersey
16 State Police, and also of Emergency Management, and
17 also Mayor Dennis McNaulty, the Deputy Director, I'm
18 Brian Verinohom.

19 I'm the regional field rep for the Office
20 of Emergency Management, out of the southern region,
21 and I'm also the field representative for Salem
22 County.

23 I have some prepared remarks that I would
24 like to read, briefly. But before I begin, I would
25 like to acknowledge two gentlemen in the room. First

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1 Executive Assistant John Christiansen. Thank you,
2 John. And Senior Planner Al Smith, thank you sir.

3 Those two gentlemen represent the backbone
4 of the radiological emergency response planning and
5 training unit, within the state police.

6 I have asked John to keep his timer
7 available. The last time I practiced my remarks it
8 was 45 minutes or so.

9 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Just 45 minutes?

10 MR. VERIMOHOM: That was it. We kept it
11 under an hour. My attempt at humor.

12 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Well, keep that
13 timer.

14 MR. VERIMOHOM: The New Jersey Office of
15 Emergency Management, NJOEM, has received and reviewed
16 the Early Site Permit emergency plan for the PSEG
17 site, also known as ESP Emergency Plan, and final
18 updated evacuation time estimate study.

19 The NJOEM believes the proposed emergency
20 plan is practicable. NJOEM has also reviewed an
21 updated evacuation time estimate, and concurs,
22 reviewed the evacuation time estimate, and concurs
23 with the information in the final report.

24 The emergency planning provision require
25 PSEG to obtain certifications and/or assurances, from

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1 local and state governmental agencies, for emergency
2 planning, and to support emergency response, to any
3 new plant, if constructed.

4 Therefore pursuant to the New Jersey
5 Statutes, the New Jersey Office of Emergency
6 Management provides the following assurances: Number
7 1, the proposed emergency plan is practicable.

8 Number two, NJOEM will fully participate
9 in any further development of the plan, and required
10 field demonstrations for this emergency plan.

11 Number 3, New Jersey is committed to
12 executing our responsibilities, under the plans, in
13 the event of an emergency.

14 Number four, per the existing Memorandum
15 of Understanding, NJOEM will continue to coordinate
16 with the Delaware Emergency Management Agency, also
17 known as DEMA, the Maryland Emergency Management
18 Agency, MEMA, and the Pennsylvania Management Agency,
19 also known as PEMA, on all mutual aid activities, to
20 support the emergency planning, and response efforts
21 of the PSEG nuclear units.

22 Over the years NJOEM has maintained a
23 successful working partnership with PSEG, in support
24 of the existing Salem and Hope Creek Nuclear
25 Generating Stations.

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1 It is our commitment to support emergency
2 preparedness for this, as well as all hazards that
3 may, potentially, impact the citizens of New Jersey.
4 Therefore we will continue to work with PSEG, in their
5 planning efforts for the ESP for the proposed PSEG
6 site. Thank you for your time.

7 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you for taking
8 your time to share those remarks today, thank you very
9 much.

10 And we are going to hear from Charles
11 Hassler, International Brotherhood of Electrical
12 Workers 94.

13 MR. HASSLER: Good afternoon. Usually a
14 state trooper is following me.

15 Anyway, I'm Charles Hassler, and I came
16 here to speak today in support of the Early Site
17 Permit for PSEG.

18 I'm a lifetime resident of Salem City,
19 lifelong, and I have worked for the Salem and Hope
20 Creek for about 34 years. I am currently a business
21 agent for the IBEW Local 94, which represents the
22 organized labor force for about 750 permanent
23 employees down in the island, and they all work in
24 different capacities down there.

25 Additionally, I'm a member of the New

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1 Jersey IBEW, the umbrella organization, with more than
2 35,000 members. Our support is based on our
3 understanding of how the NRC proceeds with the Early
4 Site Permit effort.

5 It is an informed, rational support that
6 comes only with our belief that the safety of our
7 members, and the general public at large, will be
8 assured with the construction and operation of a new
9 plant at the site.

10 PSEG has a proven record of providing
11 safe, reliable energy at its nuclear units. The three
12 units now in the site have operated; have been
13 operating at a capacity factor of about 90 to 95
14 percent, the past several years.

15 Salem and Hope Creek continue to set new
16 standards of excellence, with record generation and
17 performance. Prior to the outage of October 2009,
18 Salem Unit 2 ran for 515 consecutive days, at the
19 capacity factor of about one hundred percent.

20 This type of performance can only be
21 achieved through diligent processes, and procedure
22 adherence, while operating and maintaining the plants.

23 The personal standards for all workers are high.

24 New Jersey Nuclear Power supplies the
25 state of New Jersey with about 52 percent of its

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1 electric needs. It is important in meeting electric
2 demand, of not only the state, but the region also.

3 Producing this electricity with nuclear
4 power is done without creating greenhouse gases, which
5 is an important and critical component to this
6 discussion, given the global warming situation.

7 Equally important is that there is no
8 impact on the local environment. Without these plants
9 the reliability of electric delivery to meet demand,
10 would be put at risk.

11 As demand increases, we must consider the
12 need for another nuclear power plant. Next, America's
13 reliance on foreign energy imports continues to stress
14 our economy, costing American's jobs, and putting the
15 middle class, itself, at risk.

16 A sound energy policy is in our nation's
17 best interest, and nuclear energy must play an
18 important role in that policy. Construction of a new
19 plant would also be very good for the local economy.

20 Building a new plant would result in the
21 creation of thousands of jobs for the construction
22 side of the house. And, afterwards, up to 700
23 permanent jobs, that pay about 36 percent more than
24 the average salaries in the area.

25 Salem County is a rural community at

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1 heart, with very few industries, and very few jobs to
2 offer. If you are fortunate, as our members, and
3 myself, and all others in the company are, PSEG is the
4 place to work.

5 Building a new plant opens doors of
6 opportunities for stable employment, a better career,
7 and a better life for thousands of people in the area.

8 The officers, staff, and members of the IBEW Local
9 94, support PSEG in their Early Site Permit
10 application, and their plans to possibly build a new
11 plant right here in Salem County. Thank you.

12 FACILITATOR CAMERON: And thank you. And,
13 Brian Duffy.

14 MR. DUFFY: Good afternoon, ladies and
15 gentlemen. I'm Brian Duffy, I'm currently the
16 Chairman of the Salem County Chamber of Commerce, and
17 I would like to say a few words in support of PSEG's
18 Early Site Permit application.

19 The Salem County Chamber of Commerce
20 represents about 400 businesses and other
21 organizations in Salem County. And PSEG has always
22 been a strong supporter, and a very active member of
23 the Chamber, as well as many other community
24 organizations.

25 I can't think of an organization, or an

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1 event, that they have not supported, or a charitable
2 organization that they haven't provided assistance to,
3 in the form of Board members, volunteers, and other
4 such things.

5 All these things show us that PSEG has
6 been, truly, a good neighbor to Salem County, a good
7 corporate citizen. And any expansion of their
8 activities, we would expect, to be more of the same.

9 And it is a very good thing for the
10 county, and we look forward to the expansion. PSEG
11 has also supported the Chamber of Commerce's efforts
12 to enhance business relationships with the other
13 businesses and organizations in Salem County, and the
14 surrounding areas.

15 In fact, one of our initiatives, recently,
16 has been to buy locally, and we have expanded that
17 message not only to citizens with consumer goods, but
18 to large businesses.

19 And PSEG was already way of the curve with
20 that. They support many local businesses, and
21 vendors. And I think Tom mentioned the figure of 80
22 million dollars, annually, into the local economy.

23 One of the most important things is to
24 bring dollars into the county, and not have dollars
25 drift out. And I just did a little bit of rough math,

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1 with our 60,000 or so citizens of Salem County.

2 That 80 million dollars would probably be
3 about 5,000 dollars per family, in Salem County, and I
4 hate to think how bad it would be without that. Salem
5 County and Cumberland County are the two poorest
6 counties in the state.

7 So the economic impact, in a positive way,
8 of PSEG is tremendously important, and any growth
9 would only help our situation down here.

10 I am also a small business man, and PSEG
11 is one of my valued customers. We build equipment for
12 oil refineries, chemical plants, and so forth. And I
13 can say, having visited the plant several times, that
14 the culture of safety, quality, and security, is
15 unparalleled in anything that I have seen.

16 And certainly with an expansion, with a
17 new nuclear reactor, we can be assured that the same
18 culture would prevail.

19 Without the support of PSEG many local
20 companies, and community organizations, would not
21 survive. So PSEG is truly a major driver of our
22 economy.

23 The potential construction of a new plant
24 would mean so much to Salem County, with the increase
25 of hundreds of permanent local jobs, in addition to

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1 just on the site, with a ripple effect on other
2 businesses, restaurants, hotels, clothing stores, and
3 other vendors of that nature, would truly benefit.

4 There probably isn't a family, in Salem
5 County, who doesn't benefit, at least indirectly, from
6 the economic impact that PSEG now has, and the
7 increase in their effect in the future would only be a
8 plus.

9 The dollars that are invested here would
10 be unprecedented, and would contribute to increased
11 prosperity and economic development in Salem County
12 for many years to come.

13 For those who question PSEG's nuclear
14 operations, I can say that having visited the plant
15 several times, the culture of quality, safety, and
16 security, is apparent throughout the operation.

17 PSEG has proven itself to be a great
18 neighbor and a partner in the Salem County community.

19 The Salem County Chamber of Commerce supports PSEG
20 nuclear in its current operations, as well as its
21 plans to file an Early Site Permit in consideration of
22 an additional nuclear power plant here in Salem
23 County.

24 I might also mention that I live very near
25 to the nuclear plant and my own home boundaries the

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1 property from the Estuary Enhancement Program. So I'm
2 also a stakeholder from that aspect. Thank you very
3 much.

4 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Brian.
5 And thank you all for your very erudite comments. Did
6 I miss anybody who wanted to talk? Yes, sir.

7 Do you want to just come down?

8 MR. BLAKE: I showed up five minutes late,
9 so maybe it didn't get down. My name is Matt Blake,
10 and I'm the manager with the American Littoral
11 Society, a Coastal Conservation organization, based in
12 Sandy Hook. We have an office in Melville.

13 And I'm representing several members of
14 the South Jersey Bay Shore Coalition, which is a
15 coalition of many of the environmental, and cultural,
16 and preservation oriented non-profit, and pseudo
17 governmental groups, working in the South Jersey Bay
18 Shore region.

19 And I would just like to share some of the
20 comments with a letter that we submitted to the Army
21 Corps of Engineers on September 8th, just raising some
22 of the concerns associated with the proposed new road.

23 Dear COL Tickner: The undersigned groups
24 of the South Jersey Bay Shore Coalition are writing
25 with a concern about a potential land swap in Lower

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1 Alloways Creek of New Jersey.

2 PSEG is seeking to secure title to 34
3 acres on artificial island, from the Army Corps of
4 Engineers, for the purposes of constructing a new
5 nuclear power plant, Salem 4.

6 PSEG has submitted application materials
7 to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission demonstrating
8 their intent to build a fourth power plant at Salem
9 and Hope Creek.

10 In exchange of these 84 acres the Corps is
11 asking PSEG to identify and transfer ownership, to the
12 Army Corps of Engineers of another 84 acres, yet to be
13 determined, that the Corps would use as a dredge
14 spoils disposal site for its projects.

15 Skipping ahead. It is clear the land swap
16 is intended to result in the construction of Salem 4
17 on Artificial Island. The Corps affirmative action to
18 remove the impediment of federal ownership of the
19 lands that PSEG desires for this purpose, to decide
20 and negotiate a land swap, and to take actions to
21 accomplish this negotiation, all for the purposes of
22 constructing Salem 4 on this location, is a major
23 federal action that will affect the human environment
24 and, therefore, is subject to NEPA.

25 I think coming in late I was catching the

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1 tail end that some of these things are, indeed,
2 happening, which would have us pleased greatly.

3 Additionally, pursuing the land swap is
4 for the purposes of identifying, securing, and
5 utilizing a new location for a federal confined
6 disposal facility that will receive dredge spoils from
7 the Delaware River, and/or other Army Corps of
8 Engineers projects.

9 This, too, is a major federal action that
10 will affect the human environment and, therefore, is
11 subject to NEPA.

12 Therefore it was required that before
13 engaging in negotiation and implementation of this
14 action, the Corps must prepare an Environmental Impact
15 Statement. And we would suggest considering the use
16 to be made of this land.

17 It is most probable that NEPA would
18 require and should require completion of a full
19 Environmental Impact Statement. Let me just share some
20 of the concerns that the undersigned groups have.

21 The proposed construction of Salem 4 on
22 Artificial Island would have several significant and
23 environmental impacts that the Corps must consider
24 including, but not limited to, increased level of
25 flooding, that will take place on the island in the

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1 coming 50 and 100 year time frames.

2 The impact of sea level rise must be
3 considered. Development of an additional nuclear
4 plant puts the facility, the workers, and the nuclear
5 materials to be stored on this site, at risk of harm.

6 And in the case of nuclear materials, at
7 risk of release into the river, and environment.
8 Construction of a new nuclear facility and access
9 road, at this location, will result in the damage of
10 wetlands, and adverse effects on a variety of aquatic
11 life, bird life, and wild life.

12 Construction of an additional nuclear
13 facility and access road on this location will impact
14 the health, aesthetics, and quality of life of those
15 fishing, boating, and birding, and living in the
16 region.

17 It is also, likely, that the land swap and
18 resulting new access road would obstruct the view shed
19 of the historic 1722 Able Mary Nicholson brick house,
20 which is a national historic landmark.

21 The Army Corps of Engineers and PSEG must
22 consider an alternative to the land swap, such as
23 using the existing road to Artificial Island, instead
24 of creating a second road if, and when, a nuclear
25 facility is permitted.

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1 In our view the existing access road
2 should be sufficient. Issues associated with new
3 spoil disposal site are, as yet, unknown, as the sites
4 under consideration are unknown.

5 But there are likely to be issues,
6 considering the Army Corps of Engineers for riverfront
7 lands. The Army Corps needs to examine these, and
8 other issues, including allowing for public comment,
9 and going through the EA and EIS process, before the
10 Corps makes the decision, and takes the action that
11 supports, assists, regulates, approves, and encourages
12 to construct Salem 4 in Artificial Island and create a
13 new confined disposal facility for accommodating
14 dredge spoil sites from federal projects.

15 Respectfully, and these are the
16 undersigned groups of the coalition that signed on to
17 this letter, the American Littoral Society, the
18 Association of Environmental Commissioners, Conserve
19 Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey, Tidewaters Gateway
20 Partnership, Incorporated; Preservation Salem County,
21 New Jersey Environmental Commission, the Delaware
22 River Keeper, South Jersey Land and Water Trust, and
23 Citizens United to Protect the Morris River, and its
24 tributaries.

25 And just to finish, I'm a resident of

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1 Greenwich, I grew up next to the Bay Side tract of
2 4,000 acres, Green Swamp. I see the value of those
3 projects, and I live and work around many people who
4 work at the power plant.

5 So thank you for allowing me to speak.

6 FACILITATOR CAMERON: And do you want us
7 to attach that?

8 MR. BLAKE: Did you get this gentleman's
9 name? These are additional people? Okay. Do you
10 want to -- I will take it that is good. Thank you
11 very much.

12 Okay, Doctor Loren Thomas, and then David
13 Biley, Jim Kehoe, and Maria Patouhas.

14 DR. THOMAS: Thank you. My name is Loren
15 Thomas, I'm the Superintendent of Schools for the
16 Salem County Vocational Technical Schools, Special
17 Services School District, and this year serving
18 Manekan, as well.

19 I'm also a member of the Whig Board, and
20 Workforce for Salem and Cumberland Counties. There
21 are a couple of things that I would like to address,
22 that relate to the general area of the social economic
23 impact of the nuclear power plant, and why we support
24 additional generating spot.

25 Tom used the word earlier, and someone

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1 else repeated it, good neighbor. I would certainly
2 say that PSEG has been a good neighbor, and a friend
3 to many of us. And in both my roles in education, and
4 in workforce investment development, PSEG has been a
5 very strong supporter.

6 Others have mentioned, I think Jack Kugler
7 mentioned that there is a hardly a Board, in Salem
8 County, which is not represented by PSEG. In my own
9 instance we have members of our foundation, our
10 educational foundation, the community college
11 foundation, the Advisory Board for the Technical
12 School, and in several of our specific program
13 advisory committees.

14 In all those instances we have various
15 employees, at different levels, from PSEG who come to
16 give support and advice.

17 I would also like to point out that PSEG
18 has been tremendously supportive in education. They
19 have built and remodeled, recently, their EERC, their
20 Environmental Energy Resource Center, and have invited
21 any number of people down there.

22 We, ourselves, transported 200 eighth
23 graders there last summer, to use their facility free,
24 which isn't just about nuclear energy, it is about
25 sustainable energy, and about the energy cycle.

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1 Salem County, for those of you who don't
2 know this, who aren't from here, has a very unique
3 relationship between the vocational technical school,
4 this community college, and the power plant.

5 We have the only energy academy, which
6 runs from a student at 14, entering high school,
7 through college, which issues in, this year alone we
8 had, I think, the first four graduates of the
9 college's program, all of whom are currently employed.

10 That is articulated with the high school
11 program, so that students can begin working on that at
12 14 years old. And they can actually obtain about a
13 year of their college credit, while in high school,
14 and then finish up in a year.

15 That would not happen without PSEG. I
16 have actually sat at the table, myself, with various
17 people from PSEG's training department, who have given
18 us advice regarding curriculum, have given us advice
19 regarding which courses need to be had, the sequence
20 it needs to happen, and how that needs to be
21 integrated to meet standards.

22 And that is a very unique thing. I
23 believe it is only such program in the United States.

24 And it is in this small county, and it really is only
25 because of PSEG's support and influence.

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1 Personally I would say that PSEG has
2 supported our work at Votech, in any number of ways,
3 financially they underwrite our summer program.

4 Right now we are in partnership with them
5 to create an energy academy, which allows students to
6 come to high school, and elect to study either
7 sustainable, of nuclear energy, through their courses
8 or high school program.

9 It allows students to emphasize, or
10 actually select a major in energy. Again, that would
11 not be happening without PSEG. This year we, like
12 most school districts, suffered state cuts, suffered
13 cuts in funding, and PSEG actually offered us a grant
14 to help support a teaching position.

15 A couple of other people mentioned,
16 earlier, that they had been anti-nuclear energy. I'm
17 one of them, I'm an aging hippie, you know, I grew up
18 in the '60s, and you had to be against nuclear energy.

19 And most of what I thought about power
20 plants grew out of Mr. Burns in the Simpsons. I'm one
21 of those people who has been converted, myself, and
22 that is because I have allowed myself to be educated.

23 And having been at the plant, and having
24 listened, and having heard not just their sales pitch,
25 but the kind of scientific evidence we hear today, I

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1 have become an absolute believer and supporter of
2 nuclear energy as a sustainable form of energy, moving
3 forward for our country.

4 But as an educator in Salem County, I
5 certainly would second the comment that PSEG has been
6 a wonderful neighbor, and I can only see more good
7 things coming out of their development here. Thank
8 you.

9 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thanks, Dr. Thomas.

10 David Bailey.

11 MR. BAILEY: Good afternoon. I could have
12 bet the farm that I would have had to adjust the
13 microphone when I got down here, but I don't have to,
14 so that is exciting.

15 My name is Dave Bailey, Jr., I'm the
16 Executive Director of Ranch Hope, Incorporated, a 501-
17 C non-profit organization headquartered here in
18 Alloway Township, Salem County, New Jersey.

19 I'm extremely humbled to even be up here,
20 after hearing so many esteemed colleagues up here
21 today, in research and things along those lines. But
22 I wanted to give you another vantage point, and give a
23 different vantage point, today, of our experience with
24 PSEG, as well.

25 I'm in full support, with the backing of

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1 our Board of Directors, of this Early Site Permit
2 application. You may say, what does a local non-
3 profit have in common, or why would they be involved
4 with PSEG, especially one whose main focus is in a
5 continuum of care from shelters through supportive
6 housing for many of New Jersey's at-risk youth, here
7 in southern New Jersey, but also throughout the state.

8 Number one, we are a neighbor. If you
9 were to look at our overhead picture of our 168 acre
10 campus in Alloway Township, in the very right top hand
11 corner, you would see Hope Creek in the very top
12 corner up there. So that is how close we are.

13 And so many times, when our families come
14 down, or our kids are coming down for the first time
15 to our campus, they have questions about that, they
16 have questions about the large sirens, and different
17 things that are around the area.

18 So we have to answer those questions, and
19 as a local neighbor, we have to be able to respond to
20 some of those issues. We also share a mission that is
21 very risky. When you work with at-risk youth, and
22 many times in the community, and your community
23 members have a lot of anxiety and fear.

24 And so when you share a mission, like we
25 do, and as PSEG deals with, you have to address those

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1 issues, and address those anxieties and fears. And
2 you do that two ways.

3 And we have talked about education a lot
4 today. And you do that through educating people. And
5 PSEG has done a phenomenal job of educating us, and
6 educating members of the community through our
7 partnerships, and our relationships that have been
8 built.

9 And that is through stakeholders meetings
10 that are held on a regular basis, and where we get
11 together and we talk about what is going on currently,
12 and Tom himself comes and meets with us and talks
13 about not only what is happening now, but what the
14 future goals and aspirations of PSEG are.

15 We also do that through site tours. You
16 have heard many people say that. And I, myself, have
17 participated in those site tours. And you get to see
18 first-hand the quality and the area around safety.

19 And, especially, the area around security
20 at the Hope Creek Generating Station. And so those
21 fears and anxieties may be taken out, and you can
22 better communicate those to your fellow community
23 members.

24 And, also, you've heard about the Energy
25 and Environmental Resource Center. What a phenomenal

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1 new opportunity here in Salem County. The Ben
2 Franklin Institute has come to Salem County, we like
3 to say. What a first class operation.

4 Our own students, from Ranch Hope, my own
5 children, and the public sector here in Salem County,
6 have gone there. Last week we held our own board
7 meeting, for our own Board of Directors' meeting
8 there, at the EERC center, and what a phenomenal
9 opportunity and educational resource we now have in
10 Salem County.

11 You also do that through communication.
12 You get rid of anxiety and fear through communication.

13 As we have already heard, so many community boards,
14 and representation that folks are involved in, from
15 PSEG leadership, through mid management, and to the
16 local folks getting direct workers that will get
17 involved.

18 We, ourselves, have two members of middle
19 management folks that are on our Board of Directors at
20 Ranch Hope, and give of their time, energy, and
21 expertise to helping us in our mission, and to youth.

22 Finally, in long-range an impact on
23 today's youth, and the at-risk that we work with at
24 Ranch Hope. We are in the midst, in our strategic
25 planning and design, of creating the first green

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1 community, green treatment community here in New
2 Jersey.

3 And PSEG nuclear is playing a lead role,
4 economically in helping us create lead certified
5 buildings, putting new sustainable energy in the area
6 of geothermal and the use of solar, and creating not
7 only an efficient environment, but a new learning
8 environment for our youth, one of the first of its
9 kind here in New Jersey.

10 And we wouldn't be able to do that without
11 the support of PSEG Nuclear. Earlier we had an
12 interesting, it was interesting to me that we had a
13 little conversation and clarification around the word
14 intervene.

15 And we talked about when you look at the
16 word intervene, is it negative or is it positive?
17 How do we mean that? And I think the same thing when
18 I look at environmental impact.

19 When you read that maybe some of us in
20 this room think what is the negative environmental
21 impact? Well, I'm here to testify, today, that PSEG
22 Nuclear is having a positive environmental impact on
23 the youth, and especially the at-risk youth here in
24 New Jersey.

25 We are in full support of this Early Site

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1 Permit Application. Thank you.

2 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thanks, David. Jim?
3 And then we will go to Maria.

4 MR. KEHOE: Good afternoon. My name is Jim
5 Kehoe, I'm the President of the Building Trades in
6 Southern New Jersey. We represent 25,000 craftsmen
7 who live and work in southern New Jersey.

8 We are here to support the Early Site
9 Permit for PSEG. PSEG is our best client. They
10 provide a safe atmosphere for our membership, when
11 they come and work, and work on the outages, or the
12 construction projects from when Salem 1 was built,
13 Salem 2 was built, and Hope Creek was built.

14 There isn't a safer environment for our
15 construction workers to work on. On this project,
16 over 4,000 craftsmen will be needed for several years
17 to construct this unit.

18 The economy in southern New Jersey is such
19 right now, 50 percent of the building trades are out
20 of work right now. This is a reliable way to provide
21 power.

22 When you are someone who is looking to
23 come to invest in the state of New Jersey, you are
24 looking for certainty of energy, you are looking for
25 reliability. We need to construct more plants such as

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1 the fourth nuclear power plant in Salem, to just be
2 able to enhance and retain the people who have
3 commerce in southern New Jersey.

4 It is an ecologically sound project, as
5 you have heard by people who are doctors, and who work
6 in the industries who evaluate that, as you have heard
7 today.

8 And, lastly, we are all ratepayer. And
9 what does a ratepayer want? The ratepayer wants to
10 pay a lower energy cost. And with the added value of
11 a fourth nuclear power plant we will all get that.

12 So with that we support this plan one
13 hundred percent, and I thank you very much.

14 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you very much.
15 Maria?

16 MS. PATOUHAS: Good afternoon. My name is
17 Maria Patouhas, I'm the manager for government
18 relations for the Chamber of Commerce, Southern New
19 Jersey.

20 I appreciate the opportunity to provide
21 the Chambers' comments relative to our member, PSEG.
22 We are here today to express our strong support for
23 PSEG's application for an Early Site Permit.

24 Our Chamber is the largest business
25 organization in the region and among the largest

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1 chambers in the state. We represent, approximately,
2 1,700 member companies, that employ more than 300,000
3 people.

4 Our members are located throughout the
5 greater Philadelphia, Northern Delaware, and this
6 region, and the seven southern New Jersey counties.

7 Just to reiterate some other comments that
8 have been said today. PSEG Nuclear plays a very
9 important role in our regional economy. The company
10 is the largest employer in Salem County, employing
11 1,500 people, and pays more than two million in local
12 property taxes.

13 Each year PSEG Nuclear spends millions of
14 dollars with local companies in southern New Jersey,
15 to help them generate electricity. This investment
16 results in direct jobs for hundreds of people, and
17 even more indirect jobs in our region.

18 As a non-profit, our chamber has a special
19 appreciation for the long history that PSEG Nuclear,
20 and its parent company, PSEG, have as an important
21 business and community leader in our region.

22 Thank you for the opportunity to present
23 our position.

24 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you very much,
25 Maria. And Maria is our last speaker for this

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1 afternoon's meeting. And I'm going to ask Becky
2 Karas, who is our senior agency official, to close out
3 this afternoon's meeting. Becky?

4 MS. KARAS: I just wanted to take the time
5 to thank everybody for coming. I know the weather
6 isn't the best today. And it is good to see that we
7 have so many interested people out here, with these
8 issues, that have taken time to give some careful
9 consideration, and careful thought, and provide your
10 detailed comments to us.

11 We will be carefully considering those
12 comments, as we develop the Draft Environmental Impact
13 Statement. And I just wanted to remind everybody that
14 you have until December 14th, to submit any additional
15 comments that you might have.

16 Thank you, again, and we will have some
17 staff available in case you have any questions after
18 this.

19 (Whereupon, at 3:24 p.m., the above-
20 entitled matter was concluded.)
21
22
23
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